

# RESERVIST

Official Publication of the United States Coast Guard

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## Enlisted Excellence

**Reserve Enlisted Persons of the Year**  
*The Best of the Best for 2013*

Volume LXI ≈ Issue 2 • 2014



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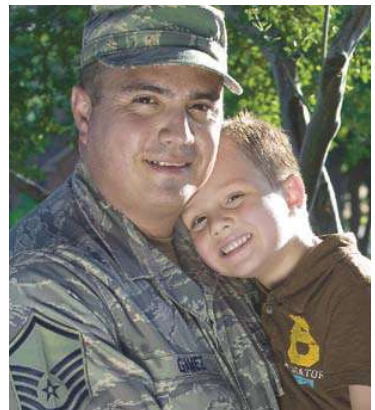
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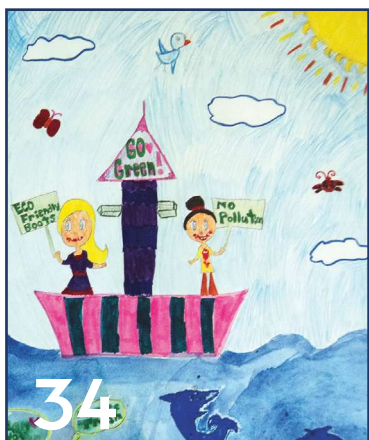
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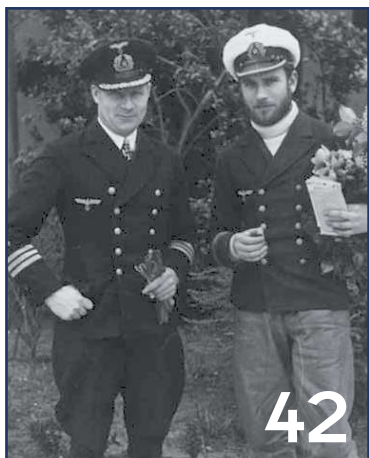
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**ON THE COVER:**  
MEC Wesley Mundy,  
the Coast Guard's  
2013 Reserve Enlisted  
Person of the Year who  
lives in Maui, Hawaii,  
was presented with a  
traditional Hawaiian  
Kuki Nut lei following his  
meritorious promotion  
ceremony on June 17,  
2014 in Norfolk, Va.  
Photo by Michelle Paul



## RESERVIST

Celebrating Our 61st Year!

Volume LXI ≈ Issue 2 • 2014

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reserves the right to select and edit  
all materials for publication. We  
continue to strive for perfection,  
yet unattained.



## From the Editor



As a native Cape Codder, it was always easy to know when summer arrived. It was the day on the calendar – usually about a week before the 4th of July – that the normal five minute drive to the Post Office turned into a mission that required pre-planning, thoughtful tactical movements (as few left hand turns as possible) and the occasional use of a salty vernacular in response to a visitor's poorly conceived maneuver.

Here at Coast Guard Headquarters, as across the Service, summer is marked by personnel transfers. Every four years, as is the case this summer, a number of those transfers have added significance, notably the Coast Guard's new senior leadership team: Commandant, Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard, Vice Commandant, Deputy Commandants for both Operations and Mission Support, and the Atlantic and Pacific Area Commanders.

Here in our corner of St. Elizabeth's, Rear Adm. James Heinz has assumed the duties of Director of Reserve and Military Personnel, while Master Chief Eric Johnson is onboard as the Coast Guard Reserve Force Master Chief. Capt. Patrick 'Kofi' Aboagye has relieved Capt. Kent Bauer (ret) as the Chief, Office of Reserve.

So, as new leadership takes the helm, our mission here at the Reservist remains the same: keeping you up-to-date on the course that has been set and what you need to know to stay on track.

In this particular issue you will find dozens of short pieces covering Reserve activities from Guam in the west, Alaska in the north, Florida in the south and Maryland in the east.

In our A Light on Yesteryear section you will find the second and final installment of our series about Lt. Charles Eliot Winslow, a reservist who served during the Second World War.

Be sure to check out our on-line edition at <http://www.uscg.mil/reservist/> which offers a number of embedded videos highlighting unique Reserve force operational and logistics capabilities.

This issue's More You Know section has items of interest, particularly for those looking to transfer their G.I. Bill benefits. There is also an in-depth article covering the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act commonly known as USERRA.

As always, thanks for reading.

*Anima est Bonus!*  
**Jeff Smith**

## From Our Readers



### LETTER OF THE MONTH

Dear Editor,

I've been thinking about this letter for a long time and feel that I better write it while I am able.

I am hoping that it will inspire some young person to follow a pattern similar to mine with regard to their Coast Guard service.

I enlisted in the Coast Guard Reserve in September of 1959, and was a member of recruit company India 41, graduating as Company Honor Graduate in January of 1960. Had you asked me at that time I would have said I would complete my initial obligation and then leave the service. As it turned out my service lasted for an additional 32 years.

I found that study and hard work had its rewards as I regularly advanced thru enlisted ranks, eventually achieving the rank of Senior Chief. Then I decided to try to reach the level of Warrant Officer. Voila, study and hard work saw that become a reality. With the promotion came new responsibilities in training, administration and operations. That led me to apply for and achieve a Direct Commission as a Lt.j.g. To shorten the narrative, I held 3 commands, the last being the first Commanding Officer of Reserve Unit Station New York. I retired in July of 1991 as a Lt. Commander.

This entire career is one of the highlights of my life. No one ever asked me who I was or where I came from or questioned anything other than my ability. I had very little college education at the time, but found a great value was placed on performance. What a wonderful way to go.

This prompted me to follow the same path in my civilian employment, which resulted in significant accomplishments for my company and promotions into management of an engineering department responsible for millions of dollars in capital equipment budgets each year. The leadership that I learned in the CG Reserve made my life a real success.

For anyone starting out now, I assure you it is still possible to be a success providing you apply yourself diligently.

— Lt. Cmdr. William C. Metzger, USCGR (ret)



Dear Editor:

Feel free to run this in the *Reservist* if you would like. I wrote this for our sector newsletter to try and quell some of the budget/personnel fears that are out there with regards to budgets.

Things will work out.

I was reading the *Reservist* magazine, and came across an article on a streamlining plan with regards to the reducing budget. In the article, the commandant is talking about money savings. He states that, "...this plan will save, on a cumulative basis, nearly \$1 billion [in the next 10 yrs]. This plan is truly an outline for better government at less cost."

The article goes on to say that under command and control they will restructure at a projected savings of 500 personnel, and about \$20 million per year. At headquarters, the streamlining project will save another \$20 million, and decrease the size of CGHQ by 600 personnel through a 300-person reduction, and moving an additional 300 members to operational and support roles.

I suspect most of you have not read this article. In fact, I can say for certain that well over 80% of you have NOT read this article. How do I know this? Not because I'm issued some sort of secret-squirrel power as the Silver Badge, but because this article is from the December 1995 issue of the *Reservist*.

I bring this up to help you understand that although the current budget issues are uncertain and scary, it has happened before, and the Reserve program is still here. Things will work out. You, as members, need to keep current on the issues going on, follow the directions from those that supervise you concerning what you need to do to keep your career moving forward and most importantly, hang in there. Things will work out.

— **BMCS Jeff Lucas,**  
**Sector Mobile, Reserve Command Senior Chief**

Dear Editor:

With the record-setting winter behind those of us who work and live in the National Capitol Region, we, along with the rest of the nation, are anxious for the summer days, and to celebrate all that the warmer weather has to offer with our family, friends, and fellow shipmates. Oftentimes, outings and events include ice cold adult beverages, and in moderation they are enjoyable additions to picnics, sporting events, and local gatherings.

However, the same beverage that can quench our thirst can also be a devastating factor if not managed accordingly. With the long-awaited winter reprieve upon us, yet still ahead of the "official" summer months, I wanted to pass along a "measuring stick" that I first heard mentioned a few years ago during a Reserve all-hands event in Alameda, Calif., by then Rear Adm. (ret) Joseph "Pepe" Castillo, the 11th Coast Guard District Commander.

He was absolutely correct in his preface by saying once he passed along this notable tidbit of information it would be virtually impossible to ever forget. So, without further ado, I offer four numbers - yep, four digits - that if employed correctly can offer you a good "rule-of-thumb" or "measuring stick" from which to assess your situation, and possibly those friends, family members, and shipmates around you.

The digits are "0013."

Okay, here's what they mean. The first "0" is a reminder that minors are forbidden to partake of alcoholic beverages, or for others to provide minors with alcohol.

The second "0" refers to the "no drinking and driving" clause. In short, do not drink and drive.

The third digit, the number "1", simply means that in any setting, you are not to consume more than one alcoholic beverage per hour.

And lastly, the fourth and final digit, the number "3", refers to how many beverages to not exceed in one night's setting or event.

So, there it is, four simple numbers that are now forever embedded into your memory that you can use as a reference point for keeping yourself (and possibly others) in check and safe from harm or harming others.

Now for the disclaimer portion of this letter: "0013" is NOT a fail-safe guarantee. As we are all aware, alcohol affects people differently, based on many variables, such as fatigue, weight, metabolism, and on and on. Also, you can't employ the "0013" rule and attempt to also game-the-system by ordering Long Island Iced Teas (these are extremely high in alcohol content) or partaking in 60-ounce bottles of brew.

In closing, I would like to wish everyone in the CG Family a safe and enjoyable summer. And if you or someone you know needs help, please utilize resources available to you, such as your CDAR, your substance abuse prevention specialist, medical officer, or your command for assistance.

— **Cmdr. Andy Sheffield, USCGR**



# We Want YOU!

**Calling all Coast Guard retirees, annuitants, survivors, reservists, and auxiliaries -- the Coast Guard is establishing retiree services desks at our Bases and select Training Centers around the country.**

**Staffed by volunteers, these desks offer individuals the opportunity to "stay connected" in support of our Coast Guard retiree community. Volunteers will be provided with a self-paced training program and the tools needed to "stay informed" while interacting with and helping others.**

**For more information, contact:**

**Cmdr. Jim Garzon**  
**Program Manager**  
**Retiree Services**  
**james.garzon@uscg.mil**









Coast Guard Reserve crewmembers aboard a 29-foot Response Boat-Small from Station Washington patrol the rivers around the National War College in Washington, D.C., Saturday, April 12, 2014. Station Washington Reserve members train year-round to stay proficient and maintain their qualifications.

Photo by PA2 Matthew S. Masaschi





## The View from the Bridge

Captain Stephen B. Nye,  
Acting, Director of Reserve

**A**s I head “ashore” after 39 years of Active Duty and Reserve service, I couldn’t be more gratified and blessed to be a small part of our amazing Coast Guard. To you I say “thank you” for the privilege to serve alongside the Coast Guard’s most precious resource - its people.

I hope to be an encouragement to you as we travel through these challenging times where it may seem to some that we are losing ground. I recently came upon a quote by President Ronald Reagan a year after he left office that I’d like to share. “A leader, once convinced a particular course of action is the right one, must have the determination to stick with it and be undaunted when the going gets tough.”

While there’s no doubt that the budgetary environment is tough right now, we are on the right course. Fortunately, the Coast Guard Reserve is made up of great leaders and shipmates who have built a national reputation, being ready when needed most. We will continue to meet mission, regardless of how the budget pendulum swings. We’re a dynamic organization which gets the job done in the face of difficult times or changing demands; it’s what defines us.

Not surprisingly, history repeats itself. In the 1990s, much like today, budgets were contracting and the Coast Guard Reserve successfully navigated through significant reductions. We’ve taken important lessons from those days to inform and guide our strategies as we make similar adjustments today.

During my first Headquarters tour in 2002, our strategy was to return to the basics in the midst of post-9/11 demand for Reserve forces. Adm. Papp, then Director of Reserve, led us through the successful process of right-sizing our budget. Our most senior Coast Guard leaders directed, and we completed, a comprehensive Reserve Strategic Assessment that developed a “concept of operations” for the Reserve Program in use today. Former Commandant Adm. Collins signed the first Reserve Policy Statement, as has each commandant since. Adm. Allen issued Commandant’s Intent Action Order #9 that directed development of a plan to better align the Reserve mission support system. The result is today’s Reserve Force Readiness System (RFRS; see Commandant Instruction 5320.4 (series)).

When I returned as Deputy Director of Reserve and Military Personnel in 2012 all this extremely important capability was in place and working. I’ve had the privilege of working with really smart people who are moving us through today’s stormy budgetary seas. Under Adm. Papp’s leadership, Rear Adm. Steve Day served as the Coast Guard’s

Reserve Chief, the first Senate confirmed Reserve flag officer to serve in that position. Rear Adm. Day, and others senior leaders, led the integration of Regular and Reserve personnel management, put solid plans together to stabilize the Reserve budget, and implemented workforce shaping tools designed to rebalance the Reserve enlisted workforce, while providing advancement and leadership opportunities for our more junior enlisted members.

Ultimately, any change to a broad system, like the Reserve Program, takes a steady hand and patience to see things through. Knowing these attributes are in place and that all are doing their part to maintain readiness and stay on course,

I remain positive about the future. Yes, we’ll be smaller, but our focus will remain on readiness and mission effectiveness because this is what the Coast Guard requires and the American public expects.

Time and time again, the Reserve force has demonstrated its ability to work under adverse conditions, and always get the job done. We only have to look back to Superstorm Sandy to see the remarkable impact an augmenting Reserve force has on overall Coast Guard mission effectiveness. And none of us will forget the immediate response to the Haiti earthquake or the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. Our Port Security Units continue to be critical support to DoD combatant commanders.

Much remains to be done. As Adm. Zukunft leads our Coast Guard and Rear Adm. Jim Heinz assumes the role of Director of Reserve, they, along with Reserve Force Master Chief Eric Johnson, will be working to develop and document clear resource requirements for steady-state and contingency operations.

This effort will require a total-force approach encompassing all elements of the Coast Guard workforce. To this end, we’ve placed full-time support resources on the Deputy Commandant for Operations staff to build alliances and foster collaboration with the Area Commanders’ staffs, the Coast Guard’s mission support capability and the Office of Reserve.

So please remember this: Even though our operating and support environments often change, the Coast Guard Reserve remains critical to our Service’s ability to always be Semper Paratus. You are a resilient force made up of amazing people who bring a ton of knowledge, experience and leadership to the “fight.” May God continue to bless each and every one of you.

I’ll be proudly watching from the sidelines.

*"Time and  
time again,  
the Reserve  
force has  
demonstrated  
its ability to  
work under  
adverse  
conditions, and  
always get the  
job done."*



# Deckplate Soundings

Master Chief Eric L. Johnson  
Coast Guard Reserve Force Master Chief



I'm both humbled and proud to take on the challenges of being the sixth Coast Guard Reserve Force Master Chief. This is honestly a dream come true for me. When I joined the Coast Guard back in 1980, I knew it was a great fit and I had found a home, a family. Now, I have the opportunity to give back to the men and women of our great service.

I am excited. Things are happening. We're entering a new era of leadership, accountability, and change. And, we're meeting mission demands in a tighter budget environment. Our reservists bring maturity, education, diversity of experience, and as a bonus, talent. It's often said, "people are our most valuable asset", and if that statement is true, then relationships hold us together. Our service strength is built on relationships, and more importantly, our success is dependent upon those relationships.

I'm ensuring reservists know just how serious I am by dedicating my first order of business to forming relationships. I've set this goal for myself: in my first 90 days, I want to look 1,000 individual reservists in the eye, meet them, talk to them; I am ready to hear the good, the bad, and the ugly. But more than just listen, I'm ready to roll up my sleeves and push for improvements.

There have been a lot of changes to the Coast Guard Reserve program in the last few years, but every system requires constant review and constant maintenance. If a process is broken, let's take the time to make the repairs. I want to find out what the things are that are preventing the reservists from getting advanced, qualified, and mission ready. My goal is to provide solutions from the field whenever possible. Let's work together; the results will be worth the investment.

I am determined to enable, empower, and support the men and women of the Coast Guard Reserve. I will be dedicating significant effort to the Chief's Mess. It may seem like I'm focused on the Chiefs, and yes, I'm focused on the Chiefs. They are the backbone of our service and they're the ones looking out for our Coasties who are out there getting their hands dirty and putting in the long hours.

I want our Chiefs to have a voice. I want a Chief to know me, to feel he or she has access to me. I want to see Chiefs empowering and challenging their people without the fear of failure being a limiting factor. Whether it's a need to vent or to provide course correction, I am accessible. And concerns from the field will be heard. Bottom-line, when one of us succeeds, we all succeed. When one of us fails, we all fail. I have zero tolerance for Chiefs neglecting their duties, so set the example and do what's right. I want to ensure by the time I'm ready to roll out of here there are Chiefs trained and ready to replace me, and that those chiefs will be even more capable than I am.

Admiral Zukunft and Master Chief Cantrell have assumed the watch! Both of these gentlemen are absolutely outstanding and will lead us through challenging times. Our Coast Guard is in good hands and the next four years will prove to be a decisive period for our Reserve Force.

In closing, have each other's back and commit to driving sexual assault and all other actions that violate our core values out of our Coast Guard. Let's start making the Coast Guard better, right now.

*Semper Paratus!*

*"I am determined to enable, empower, and support the men and women of the Coast Guard Reserve. I will be dedicating significant effort to the Chief's Mess. It may seem like I'm focused on the Chiefs, and yes, I'm focused on the Chiefs. They are the backbone of our service and they're the ones looking out for our Coasties who are out there getting their hands dirty and putting in the long hours."*



## Around the Reserve

### Mobile Support Unit Demonstrates Its Unique Capabilities



Lt. Cmdr. James Brackett of the Coast Guard Mobile Support Section from Baltimore, Md., briefs members of the Mobile Support Unit at the start of a two-day mobilization exercise at Fort Meade, Md., April 12.

Demonstrating their unique capability, members of Mobile Support Unit Baltimore established a forward operating base during a mobility exercise, held at Fort Meade, Md., April 12-13, 2014.

The Mobile Support Unit (MSU) falls under the direction of the Surface Forces Logistics Center, the Coast Guard organization that provides the surface fleet with depot-level maintenance, as well as engineering, supply and information services. The MSU, which is a unit made up exclusively of reservists, serves to enhance patrol and standard boat engineering and logistical support by maintaining a fully staffed, rapidly deployable unit that can be dispatched by air, sea or land within 96 hours.

"Upon deployment, the MSU has the ability to establish two separate forward operating bases in support of Coast Guard missions in the United States and abroad," said Lt. Cmdr. William Stets with the Surface Forces Logistics Center.

In addition to freightliners, trucks, generators, and light towers, the MSU's deployable assets include, climate-controlled tents used for berthing, administration and support trailers equipped with supplies, noted Stets. Stets added that the most valuable resource the MSU has to offer are the reservists who staff the unit, who are organized into two teams and charged



Capt. Michael Haycock, Commander, Surface Forces Logistics Center details the MSU's engineering support capabilities.

with delivering and installing the MSU from the onset of deployment until it's handed over to active duty personnel. "The personnel at the Mobile Support Unit have an excellent skill set; they have an excellent work ethic and they really work well together," Stets said. "I think that combination enables the unit to go out and very quickly set this gear up for others to use."



When called upon, these teams have the capability to support two squadrons each of six 110-foot cutters by providing repair part support, tools, shore power and limited Maintenance Augmentation Team assistance.

MSU reservists have provided assistance on numerous Coast Guard missions. These included a 2003 deployment to support the Patrol Forces Southwest Asia in Bahrain, the Coast Guard's largest unit outside of the United States. Deployment of MSU personnel and supplies to Bahrain resulted in more than \$8 million in savings by cutting transportation costs. The rapid deployment abilities of the MSU also ensured resources, which would normally be delivered over the course of a month, arrived where needed in less than 72 hours.

In addition to supporting Coast Guard missions abroad, MSU reservists provide disaster relief support domestically. Following Hurricane Katrina in 2005, the MSU provided a mobile kitchen, generators, a Machinery Technician/Damage Control shop and an admin trailer in support of recovery missions along the Gulf Coast. In 2010, the MSU deployed to support the Coast Guard's Deepwater Horizon missions. Most recently, the MSU aided operations at affected Coast Guard stations along the eastern seaboard compromised by Superstorm Sandy in 2013. In response to this disaster, MUS personnel delivered generators and berthing trailers where they were most needed in less than a day.

Attendees at the MSU's spring 2014 mobility exercise included officers and staff from the Director of Operational Logistics, who were invited to witness the MSU's capabilities in order to increase awareness of this resource among leadership within other Coast Guard divisions. The officers in attendance were briefed on the MSU's capabilities prior to taking part in a complete tour of the fully operational forward operating base.



**Capt. Beverly Havlik, Deputy Commandant for Capability, details how the MSU's unique capabilities add to the Coast Guard contingency planning and response.**

Former Coast Guard Reserve Force Master Chief Mark Allen also attended the mobility exercise and praised the work of the reservists who staff the unit. "We've proven in the last 13 years, since 9/11, that we need an MSU, and we've used it multiple times since then very effectively," said Allen. The MSU is not a widely known or understood asset within the Coast Guard, he said.

"I'm extraordinarily proud of our reservists -- all of our reservists, whether it be those helping at boat stations, deployed with a port security unit in Cuba, or over in Afghanistan," Allen said.

"That's why we're holding these mobilization exercises, not only to train our people and to exercise our capacity to set up MSUs and deploy them, but also to bring guests in so we can make sure the folks across the Coast Guard understand what capabilities the Reserve has to offer."

**— Story by PA3 Charlotte Fritts  
and photos by PA3 Lisa Ferdinando  
who also contributed to this story.**



**Capt. Stephen Nye, Acting Director of the Coast Guard Reserve, takes a tour of a sleeping tent at the MSU Mobilization exercise at Fort Meade, Md., April 12.**



# Coast Guard Container Inspection Team deploys to Alaska

Large steel containers line an ice-covered lot as camouflage-clad soldiers carry heavy equipment and crates to and from a nearby warehouse. Nearby, an unexpected sight, a man in a blue uniform directs the soldiers to arrange their haul into orderly piles for inspection. The Coast Guard Container Inspection Training Assistance Team (CTAT) has come to Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER), near Anchorage, Alaska.

The transport of tools and supplies is vital to any military operation but, when those supplies include hazardous materials, it is just as vital to ensure they are transported safely. That's where CITAT comes in. Chief Warrant Officer Bruce Jones and his fellow inspectors, Senior Chief Petty Officer Dave Schacher and Chief Petty Officer Bob Diaz, arrived on JBER at the request of Army 4th Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, to lend their expertise to soldiers preparing a shipment of gear to Fort Polk, La.

Readying useful but hazardous materials for transport is an important task among the many missions the Coast Guard performs. Preparing the containers is a days-long process with many steps, all equally necessary to ensure lives and property are protected from accidental harm. CITAT members first meet with the hazardous materials certifier and conduct serviceability exams to make sure there is no interior or exterior damage to the containers.

"We're looking for any serviceability issues," said Schacher. "Basically we're looking to make sure there are no holes in the containers."

After that, the materials and equipment to be shipped are laid out, cataloged, examined and properly packed for transport.

With the initial inspections completed, the job is only half done. A stack of documents must still be filled out and filed, placards identifying the enclosed materials must be displayed and the containers must be repacked in accordance with proper



**MST3 Hamilton Cleverdon, from the Coast Guard Sector Anchorage, Alaska, facilities department, helps MSTC Bob Diaz and MSTCS Dave Schacher from the Coast Guard Container Inspection Training Assistance Team prepare batteries for shipping at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson March 4, 2014.**

accident prevention measures. Only once all this has been completed can the containers receive tags indicating their contents are safe for transport.

While CITAT personnel have many years of experience and specialized knowledge in dealing with hazardous materials cargo, it's important to remember that their job isn't to take the reins of the shipment operation.

"Our primary function is to offer advice and consultation about transporting these materials," said Jones. "We work with our fellow military service partners to come up with the best methods to ship hazardous materials safely and to train the members who will be handling them."

Over the course of their two-week deployment to JBER, the CITAT members and the soldiers they trained inspected and prepared hundreds of fuel tanks, fire extinguishers, generators and other potentially hazardous or explosive items for transport. It's a duty that serves an essential role in keeping U.S. military and civilian personnel both safe and ready to fulfill their missions.

"The Coast Guard's presence at these DoD installations, to me, is vital. This isn't a job these soldiers normally do. Their job is to be down range taking care of business," Jones said. "If we weren't here to do this, these containers would be held up at the port of Anchorage and these containers do them no good if they're stuck at a port while the soldiers are down range or in the field."

**— Story and photos by PA1 Shawn Eggert,**

*Reprinted from the Coast Guard Alaska Blog*



**PA1 Shawn Eggert takes a closer look at the Container Inspection Team at work in Alaska.**



# 1st District Reservist recognized for life saving action

Capt. Timothy J. Heitsch, Commanding Officer of Coast Guard Base Boston, attaches the Meritorious Service Medal to the uniform of Petty Officer 1st Class David J. Fencer, a reserve machinery technician at Base Boston, while unit Command Master Chief Michael A. Bumgardner looks on, May 2, 2014. Fencer was cited for heroic actions performed Aug. 31, 2007, when he pulled two people from an overturned and burning vehicle that had crashed outside his home in Derry, N.H. Shortly after Fencer pulled the occupants to safety and ensured no other passengers were in the vehicle, the passenger area of the vehicle was completely engulfed in flames.

— Photo by PA1 Krystyna Hannum



Coast Guard Reserve  
**ENLISTED** shipmates:  
You now have the historic  
opportunity to join the  
ROA as full members,  
and benefit from a  
stronger enlisted voice in  
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To learn more, please visit  
[www.ROA.org](http://www.ROA.org)

 **RESERVE STRENGTH.  
RESERVE LIFE.**  
RESERVE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION



# CG Reservist participates in unusual USAF reunion

Sector Houston-Galveston reservist Lt.j.g. Jay Turnage recently participated in an unusual reunion of USAF Vietnam pilots, held in conjunction with the Commemorative Air Force (CAF) air show in Midland, Texas.

The pilots, members of the 553rd Reconnaissance Wing and the 554th Reconnaissance Squadron, were based at Nakhon Phanom Air Base in Thailand from 1968 to 1972. This was their first reunion, and the first time many had seen each other since their tours in Vietnam.

Their mission was to fly a highly-modified, single-engine Beechcraft, known as a "QU-22", over the Ho Chi Minh trail in Laos and Vietnam, monitoring troop movements as part of a then classified program dubbed Operation Igloo White. Operations were very dangerous, single pilot, night time operations, at altitudes between 20,000 and 25,000 feet, and frequently during inclement weather. Missions were typically 6 hours in duration. Less than thirty QU-22s were produced, and eight were lost in combat. Only two remain airworthy, and only one, NX22QU (USAF 70-1535), retains its original USAF paint scheme and engine. It even retains a scar from the conflict, a patched bullet hole in its right wing.

Turnage, a professional pilot, is personal friends with the owner of NX22QU and agreed to fly it to the CAF air show and participate in the reunion. This marked the first time a QU-22 had made an air show appearance. In addition to flying in the Vietnam-era segment of air show, Turnage provided rides to some of the former QU pilots.

"It was a privilege, an honor, to take these guys up. This is first time these guys have even seen this airplane since their service in Vietnam," noted Turnage.

Approximately 60 pilots flew the QU-22 in Vietnam. Fifty-three were located and 26 were able to attend the reunion.

"It was great hearing their stories," Turnage said. "Most of them



Lt.j.g. Turnage at the controls of the single engine Beechcraft, QU-22.

were C-130 and C-141 pilots, individually chosen for the classified project. Some of them made the USAF a career; others separated after their commitment. Some continued to fly professionally, others never flew again."

The Aircraft Owner's and Pilot's Association (AOPA) was on hand to document the reunion and plans to publish an article about the reunion in "AOPA Pilot" magazine, to be published in the Spring of 2014.

Turnage is a Special Agent with the FBI, and serves as the Aviation Coordinator in the Dallas Division. A former paratrooper, he served in both the active-duty Army and the Florida National Guard. He holds an Airline Transport Pilot certificate, with Single, Multi, and Instrument instructor ratings. He's logged about 4,000 flight hours and has flown over 25 types of airplanes and helicopters.

— Story and Photos submitted by  
Lt.j.g. Jay Turnage



US Air Force QU-22 pilots who flew missions over Vietnam gather for group photo during a reunion at the Commemorative Air Force Air Show in Midland, Texas.



## 8th District Reserve and Active Duty Personnel Receive Facility Inspection Training

Marine Safety Unit (MSU) Texas City hosted a five-day Facility Inspector College during the first week of April. This training allowed both active duty and reserve members throughout the 8th District to obtain hands-on-training to meet the requirements of a Facility Inspector. To prepare for the weeklong evolution, Texas City reservists and their active duty counterparts worked in tandem to provide three months of classroom instruction on the fundamental components of facility safety and security inspections. The progressive training transitioned to five days of practical exercise where participants conducted facility safety inspections, security checks, and transfer monitors in the Texas City area of responsibility. Over the course of four months, there were sixty participants from four units. Pictured here are some of the Facility Inspector College attendees with their instructors after presentation of certificates of completion by MSU Commanding Officer, Cmdr. Ricardo Alonso. (L-R) MK2 David Maldonado, Lt. Cmdr. Jason Tieman, MST2 Huynh Nguyen, Lt. Andria Davis,



MST1 David Deases, Lt. Cmdr. Cecilio Banuelos, Lt. Tamisha Lewis, MSTC Jonathan Caruk, Lt. Christina Muralles, MST1 Theodore Neitzschman, Lt.j.g. Michelle Washington, MST2 Patrick Rightmyer, MST3 Justin Tidey, MST1 Todd George, MST1 Jacob Trione, MST3 Bradley Ponto, MST1 Hyun-Sook Miramontes, Cmdr. Alonso.

— Photo by YN2 Ashlee Duval

## FS1 Roofner: A recipe for success at Station Hobucken

Food Service Specialist First Class Jennifer Roofner is a reservist assigned at Coast Guard Station Hobucken, N.C., where she takes a great deal of pride in preparing meals for reserve and active duty members alike. She does a lot of baking at home on her own time providing superb meals, including great desserts for her shipmates.

She doesn't stop at cooking great meals. She completed a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work in May and will pursue her Masters of Social Work Degree (MSW) in the fall.

Roofner enlisted in the Coast Guard in 2003. While on active duty she was stationed at units in Philadelphia, Petaluma, Calif., and Ocean City, Md. She was selected as Station Ocean City Sailor of the Year and is a recipient of CG Achievement Medal, CG Presidential Unit Citation, and CG Good Conduct Medal. She transferred from active



duty to Reserve status in 2007 to pursue school full-time.

She attained her Associate of Arts Degree in 2011 from Coastal Carolina Community College, Jacksonville, N.C., and was a 2013 CG Enlisted Reserve Scholarship Recipient. She completed her Bachelor of Social Work degree at the University of North Carolina, Wilmington (UNCW) and is the first UNCW extension student to graduate with Departmental Honors. She plans to pursue her MSW at the University of New England this fall.

She is also the proud military spouse of SSGT. Justin Roofner currently assigned to 1st Battalion, 2nd Marines, Camp Lejeune, N.C.

— Submitted by YNC Debra Balance,  
Senior Enlisted Reserve Advisor,  
Station Hobucken  
Photo by BM3 Elliot Bawden.

## MSRON 12 hosts Rear Adm. Hinrichs

On May 1, Rear Adm. Kurt Hinrichs visited the Coast Guard and Navy Reserve members attached to MSRON 12, a Navy Expeditionary Security Squadron, on Cheatham Annex in Williamsburg, Va. During Hinrichs' visit, he presented a Meritorious Team

Commendation to the Navy and Coast Guard personnel for their planning and execution of the command's annual training period, complete with C-IED, entry control point (ECP), and Individual Combat Skills training. There are 10 Coast Guard members attached to this Navy command, which is responsible for high value asset escorts both domestically and in foreign ports. Pictured left to right are: Lt. Cmdr. Eric Sisco (USN), Lt. Cmdr. Dan Cortes (USN), Cmdr. Andrew Stampfel (USNR), Cmdr William Stromberg (USNR), Lt. Cmdr Joel Knippel (USNR), Cmdr Tomas Kringel (USCGR), Lt. Marcus Bay (USCGR), Capt. Scott Seeberger (USNR), Rear Adm.



Hinrichs (USCGR), Cmdr Timothy Gainor (USCGR), Lt. Cmdr R Rob Schmidt (USCGR), HTC Bryan Hatch (USN), MECS Dale Wood (USCGR), ITC Chuck Wagner (USN), Lt. Cmdr Jeff Kuck (USCGR), and Lt. Cmdr Rebecca Albert (USCGR).

— *Story and photo submitted by Lt. Cmdr. Rebecca Albert, USCGR*

## Sector New York Holds All Hands

Reservists from Sector New York gathered at the Father Cappodanno Memorial Chapel for the 2014 Reserve All Hands. The agenda for the first day of a two-day meeting included readiness review, state of the Coast Guard Reserve Program and a review on the various processes a reservist needs to follow in order to be mobilization ready.

The day started off with the Master of Ceremonies, Lt. Cmdr. William Donohue, introducing Capt. Jeff Dixon for opening remarks. Capt. Dixon covered topics from Reserve overview to sexual assault awareness. After his opening comments, reservists who earned the Good Conduct Medal were recognized.

Following Capt. Dixon was Capt. Sean O' Brien, who spoke about the importance of the role reservists assigned to Sector New York fill. He addressed the present status of the Reserve force as well as expectations and the outlook for the future.

Lt. Cmdr. Andrew Frye gave a presentation on an overview of the Reserve Force Readiness System and Lt. Mike Osattin provided an update of the sector's Reserve force readiness factors.

Other presenters included: Petty Officer 2nd Class Brian Agresta on active duty training orders, the unit ombudsman Casey Van Huysen, Lt. Travis Gardner, the unit's chaplain and Chief Petty Officer Walter Lipski who covered medical

procedures. The day concluded with Civil Rights training provided by Senior Chief Petty Officer Kevin Purifory from Training Center Cape May.

— *Story and photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Robert Harclerode*



Capt. Jeff Dixon, Deputy Sector Commander congratulates MECS Kevin R. Post on earning his seventh Reserve Good Conduct Medal for period ending February 11, 2014, and "Numeral Three" for the Armed Forces Reserve Medal for Title 14 mobilization duty in support of the Superstorm Sandy.



# Cape Cod Coast Guardsmen support 2014 exercise in Anchorage, Alaska

Coast Guard reservists assigned to Port Security Unit 301 in Cape Cod, Mass., provided Port Security and communications support in Anchorage, Alaska, during the National Exercise Program's Capstone Exercise 2014.

The exercise, which coincided with the 50th anniversary of the magnitude 9.2 Good Friday Earthquake that struck Alaska on March 27, 1964, was designed to test the ability of local, state and federal response agencies to respond to the same disaster using modern equipment and techniques.

During the exercise, the Port of Anchorage, which processes approximately 90 percent of all cargo arriving in Alaska, was heavily damaged by the simulated earthquake and knocked out of commission.

In order to deliver relief supplies to the state and those affected by the earthquake the Department of Defense deployed their Joint Logistics Over the Shore (JLOTS) equipment, which allows DOD personnel to transfer equipment, fuel and supplies from ships at sea to shore in areas where port facilities are nonexistent, damaged or too primitive.

As the DOD personnel conducted their JLOTS cargo delivery mission, PSU 301 provided round the clock security protection for DOD assets and personnel.

"Protecting the nation's Marine Transportation System is one of the Coast Guard's oldest primary missions," said Lt. Cmdr. Matthew Haynie, executive officer of Port Security Unit 301. "During this exercise, we were responsible for providing port security and communications support for all Coast Guard and DOD assets operating in the port."

Upon arriving in Anchorage, PSU 301 personnel began devising their operational plan.

"One of our first priorities when we arrived in Alaska focused on developing a first class security protection plan for the Port of Anchorage," said Lt. Matthew Gilbert, shore side security division officer, PSU 301. "This included establishing and manning checkpoints at entryways to the port, deploying personnel to conduct roving patrols of the facilities and monitoring the buses being used to shuttle DOD personnel to and from the port facilities."

The deployment provided plenty of challenges for members of PSU 301. In addition to combating the weather and adapting their tactics to meet operational changes taking place in the port, PSU 301 personnel followed a robust training schedule, which included classroom instruction and real life scenarios. This allowed members with civilian law enforcement backgrounds and prior deployment experience to share their knowledge with their shipmates and then test them on how they would respond to real life security issues and threats.

"Our goal during the training sessions was to provide our personnel with personal and professional growth opportunities," said Gilbert. "The safe learning environment allowed us to

challenge our personnel to respond to different, real world, security scenarios they may encounter. This allows our personnel to gain valuable confidence and experience so that they are better prepared to do their job when they deploy in support of real world operations."

While the security plan was implemented at the port, the communications personnel were busy assembling their equipment and linking it with existing Coast Guard resources.

"We brought our entire communications package, consisting of antennas, radios, and other equipment, from Cape Cod," said Lt. Anthony Ruffini, the PSU's communications division officer. "By integrating our equipment with Coast Guard Sector Anchorage's we successfully served as the communication hub for the Army, Navy and Coast Guard elements exercise."

This equipment was crucial to providing timely updates to the JLOTS operational commander and ensuring the safe coordination of operations involving PSU personnel, Sector Anchorage watch standers, DOD assets and the personnel working in the JLOTS Joint Operation Center. In order to achieve this seamless integration between different operational elements, the PSU communications personnel continually train to maintain their skills.

While the Coast Guard may be the smallest of the nation's five military services, all of its members train constantly in order to deploy in support of the Coast Guard's statutory missions. This is extremely critical when it comes to PSU 301 members who are required to be ready to deploy to support missions within 96 hours of being notified.

With that in mind PSU301 takes a very long-term approach to ensuring its members are always ready.

"Our members are required to identify and plan their training courses three years into the future," said Lt. Cmdr. David Uhl, force readiness officer for PSU 301. "This benefits the command by allowing us to develop our training budget and school quotas. It really benefits our members by allowing them to grow professionally and remain competitive for advancement."

At the close of their deployment, members were pleased to be returning home to loved ones and felt a sense of pride for the positive impact they had made on the JLOTS DOD commanders.

"This exercise provided us with an opportunity to showcase the real world skills and capabilities we provide," said Ruffini. "When operational commanders see us in action they gain a better understanding of the unique skill sets we bring to the table and it shows how we can be incorporated, as an operational resource, into their tactical playbook."

— Story and photo by PAC Kip Waldow,  
17th District External Affairs



Coast Guard Reserve Lt. Matthew Gilbert, shore side security division officer, with Port Security Unit 301 personnel discusses safety tactics and techniques following a security training simulation during the 2014 Joint Logistics Over-the-Shore exercise at the Port of Anchorage, Alaska, April 3, 2014. PSU 301 personnel coordinated communications with Army, Navy and Coast Guard personnel and provided port security as federal, state and local agencies responded to a simulated magnitude 9.2 earthquake that damaged the port.

# Newly Tapped Commandant Addresses Deploying Reservists and Their Families

A Yellow Ribbon Program Pre-Deployment event was held for deploying members of PSU-312 with their family and friends in San Francisco, Calif., shortly before the unit's scheduled deployment to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Newly nominated commandant, Vice Admiral Paul Zukunft, and his wife Mrs. Fran DeNinno attended this event, helping prepare and support service members and their families during the upcoming deployment. Along with key-note speakers covering several topics to ease the transition, the event provides a platform for service members and families to network with local and national resources in the areas of Health Care, Veteran Affairs, Financial, Employment, Legal Benefits, and Education/Training opportunities.

— Photos by PAC Rachel Polish



## All Hands Gather at Sector Guam

Sector Guam recently held a Reserve All-Hands including active duty, drilling reservists and Reserve personnel serving on Title 10 orders.

The event kicked off bright and early at 0630 with 31 members participating in a physical fitness and assessment.

Following the fitness test Deputy Sector Commander: Cmdr. Brenden Kettner presented Good Conduct medals to Sector

personnel. Capt. Mark Murakami, 14th District Senior Reserve Officer, then recognized MK1 Michael Genereux for being selected the district's Reserve Enlisted Person of the Year. This marked the second consecutive year a Station Apra Harbor member has received this honor.

Following the recognition, Cmdr. Kettner offered remarks about the Reserve impact on Sector Guam's ability to execute its missions. Capt. Murakami's remarks focused on the current and future state of the CG Reserve.

Lt. Cmdr. John Hughes from the District (DXR) gave an update on reserve policy and procedures with an emphasis on high year tenure, career retention screening panel and central assignments.

Representatives from the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve gave a presentation regarding all of the services that are available to reservists.

Questions were asked and answered throughout the day. The concerns expressed primarily centered on central assignments and the need to advance, which forces many Guam reservists to weigh the benefits of advancing with the time and financial burdens of having to transfer off island to drill.





# Yellow Ribbon: Making a difference for those who go and those who wait

Recently Redeployment Assist Inspection Detachment (RAID) 20 teamed up with families from Port Security Unit (PSU) 301 and RAID 19 at a Yellow Ribbon event held in Boston, Mass.

While the families from PSU 301 and RAID 19 were there for their mid-deployment event, the service members and families from RAID 20 were there for their pre-deployment event. This made for a unique and special situation, allowing all families to inter-mingle and exchange ideas. It also marked the first time a RAID team had been able to attend a pre-deployment Yellow Ribbon Event with their families.

The reviews indicated the combined event was an overwhelming success. Chuck McGlynn, father of YN2 Matthew McGlynn, stated, "I would like to extend our gratitude for the opportunity to be with our son and his Raid Team 20 teammates. The weekend was outstanding! My family and I enjoyed everything from the great food and accommodations to the vendors. Most of all however was the sense of family that the Yellow Ribbon event fostered. We were awed and grateful to meet such accomplished veterans as Master Chief Allen, Ombudsman Jim Freeman and Chief Ben-Rajab." Another parent, Karen Costa, commented, "Events like this are a huge relief to family members left to hold down the fort while our sons and daughters are taking care of our country."

Representatives from the Vet Center, TRICARE, the US Post Office, and CG Mutual Assistance were available to family members and made presentations about each of their programs. A mother of a current RAID team member deployed in Afghanistan offered ideas on care packages to include humorous ideas to keep the member's going. She emphasized the mental shift that takes place around the fourth month and how she could tell it was time to send the "big" care package. to include whoopee cushions to lighten the mood.

I invite you to read the following email from Ruth Burke, mother of ME1 Zachary Burke of RAID 20. Her heartfelt thanks goes out to the Yellow Ribbon family and to all those who support this program.

*Dear Melissa,*

*I am compelled to write and let you know what the Yellow Ribbon Program meant and did for me. I must admit first that I was not looking forward to attending, because I thought it would be too hard for me to listen to anything about my son being deployed and I thought I would rather take the position of an Ostrich and keep my head in the sand. Oh my dear God, I was so wrong. A short time after arriving we met a couple whose son (The Lees) was already doing Raid 19. I instantly bonded with Mrs. Lee. They were incredibly generous with information and encouragement to (me especially). That was just the beginning. The entire experience was like a beautiful blanket of comfort fell over me. I am so grateful for the time you yourself spent reassuring me and helping me to find my brave. I was terrified before this program and I remain the same but now I feel different. I don't know how to explain it except to say I know I am not alone and neither is my son. He will get through this with the Coasties ( and I met all of them) and I know now I have so many resources to go to for reassurance and I will never be able to tell you what that means to me. At the risk of sounding silly, I am calling it "terror controlled". The Coast Guard officers and administrative people were outstanding in every sense of the word. They were so informative and I felt such a part of it. I can imagine what it takes to put something like this together and I imagine how hard it must be. But if only for how I feel now, I believe every person who has someone being deployed should have this privilege, this amazing privilege. I am so grateful, so unbelievably grateful for this past weekend. You did an awesome job and please, please forward this to the people who lead you in this program. It is what I see as a necessary effort for both sides of this experience - "those going and those waiting." I will end this still trying to explain how grateful I am.*

*Sincerely, Ruth Burke.*

— Submitted by YN1 Melissa Lewis





## Sector Charleston Reservist Plants Seeds in the Community

Four reservists from Sector Charleston engineering helped to plant a community garden with youth from Charleston's America Street neighborhood this past March. They spent the day planting, sharing stories and breaking bread with members of the community. Some of the young adults in attendance expressed an interest in joining the Coast Guard and will be taking a tour of Sector Charleston in the near future.

The America Street neighborhood has been called "Charleston's most dangerous address" by one local newspaper. These Coast Guard members were working with a local faith-based non-profit organization, founded by Samantha Sammis, called "Loving America Street."

The project served to help spread the Coast Guard's core values – Honor, Respect and Devotion to Duty. And, perhaps a different kind of seed was planted on America Street; one that will one day bear fruit for the future of the Coast Guard. Picture



from left to right: Carmen Goodwin EM2, Michelle Dimitrov MK3, Travis Labor EM2, Corey Wolf DC.

— Submitted by DC1 Corey Wolf,  
Photo by: Christy Royster

## Senior Leaders Gather at the 11th District

Senior leaders among 11th District Active Duty and Reserve enlisted ranks convened March 19-20 at Coast Guard Island in Alameda, Calif. to discuss ways to best support the district's enlisted members.

The annual Command Senior Enlisted Leader meeting helped familiarize the Silver Badges with programs and opportunities that allow district members to conduct their missions in the most effective and efficient manner possible. District CMC Rob Bushey and RCMC Nancy Seely led and facilitated the discussion among the 15 Active Duty and Reserve Silver Badges, including MECS Richard Baenen (Sector Los Angeles/Long Beach), MKCS Gary Dietrich (Sector San Diego), and MKCS Robert Taylor (Sector San Francisco). Participants also heard presentations from representatives

of Personnel Servicing Center – Enlisted Personnel Management (PSC-EPM), Personnel Servicing Center – Reserve Personnel Management (PSC-RPM), Office of Health, Safety, and Work Life (HSWL), Legal, Legal Assistance, Housing, 11th District Reserve Force Readiness (dxr), and the district Chaplain.

Rear Adm. Karl Schultz, District Commander, met with the Silver Badges and shared his views on the current and future state of the Coast Guard, the impact of future budgets, and the importance of communicating the value of the district's operations and mission outcomes. All participants discussed the latest initiatives and programs for their respective areas, including the



Back Row (l. to r.): MECS Richard Baenen, Reserve Command Senior Chief, Sector LA/LB and MKCS Robert Taylor, Reserve Command Senior Chief Sector San Francisco. Front Row: MKCS Gary Dietrich, Reserve Command Senior Chief, Sector San Diego; Master Chief Nancy Seely, Reserve Command Master Chief; and Rear Adm. Karl Schultz.

Photo by PA1 Thomas McKenzie

Indoctrination Program for First Termers, ways to keep non-rates motivated while waiting for "A" school assignments, and the impact of the new Reserve Boat Forces Management Plan on both the Reserve and the Active Components.

They also covered "hot" topics, including Career Retention Screening Panels, High Year Tenure, Re-Enlistment Criteria, Billet Reductions, Substance Abuse, Sexual Assault Prevention and Response, as well as Centralized Assignment and Reasonable

Commuting Distance affecting reservists. Participants found the meeting to be a good opportunity to network and share information.

"This annual meeting is pivotal to help ensure that all Silver Badges, Active Duty and Reserve, obtain the same information regarding the services available to all Coast Guard members," said Rear Adm. Schultz. "It is crucial that the Silver Badges have a forum to express deck plate concerns to the Gold Badges, and to me, so that we can understand the challenges our people face and where possible positively influence same."

— Story by PAC Sherri Eng



# A 360 Response:

## Expanding EPLO Cadre Emergency Preparedness Liaison Officers Respond to National Security Events and Disasters

The U.S. Coast Guard Emergency Preparedness Liaison Officer (EPLO) program is among the few Reserve programs in the Coast Guard growing its bench strength. EPLO's serve as the District Commander's conduit between the district and its' respective FEMA region during a response. The EPLO's job is to coordinate response issues between the Incident Commander, the District Commander and federal, state and local response entities. EPLOs coordinate with FEMA, address mission assignment issues and provide visibility on CG assets to ensure a coordinated federal response. Deployed by the District Commander after being formally requested by FEMA, the EPLO responds to major hurricanes, storms, floods, earthquakes, oil spills, major marine casualties, migrant operations and large security events, such as the Super Bowl and Republican or Democratic National Conventions. EPLOs have been deployed to every major response since the program formally began in 2007.

The EPLO program is growing. EPLOs are typically Reserve commanders selected to serve in a particular FEMA region. Coast Guard districts and FEMA regions do not align geographically, and districts with two or more FEMA regions in their area of operation typically have a captain assigned as EPLO Coordinator.

Under the new Inactive Ready Reserve (IRR) Liaison initiative, senior officers who are assigned to the IRR may drill "for points only" in support of the assigned EPLO as an assistant liaison officer, and may be recalled for active duty. This initiative is a win-win situation for both the Coast Guard and the IRR reserve member. It enables the IRR member to serve in a meaningful position and provides critical support for the district during a disaster. The initiative expands the Coast Guard's EPLO disaster response bench strength and provides an opportunity for the IRR officer to be competitive for promotion.

This summer the CG Personnel Command Reserve Personnel Management branch will announce the expanded IRR Liaison program by soliciting for Reserve commanders to serve across Coast Guard districts for up to one year, gaining vital emergency management training and career enhancing experience as assistant liaisons, supporting the districts and the assigned EPLO.

The role of the EPLO program is outlined in COMDTINST 3025.1 establishing service wide EPLO standards, mandating the use of senior reserve officers to fill the positions and directing EPLOs to work as district assets within an assigned FEMA region. The EPLO position is unique to the Reserve program and directly supports the Commandant's three Reserve program missions: maritime homeland security, domestic and expeditionary support to national defense, and domestic- natural or man-made disaster response and recovery.

What does it take to serve? Serving as an EPLO is very challenging and requires a wide array of skill sets, including knowledge of FEMA, DoD, federal state and local disaster response efforts. Typically, members who've had tours in operational response, at a combatant command or as sector liaisons make a smooth transition into the EPLO position. Officers can supplement experience with National Incident Management Systems (NIMS) and Incident Command System (ICS) training. EPLOs are expected to be many things simultaneously: effective communicators, skilled problem solvers, CG subject matter experts, NIMS/ICS proficient and possess the tact of a public affairs officer mixed with a dash of political finesse. EPLO's routinely drill and work with FEMA personnel, tribal leaders, DoD and National Guard



Pictured from left to right: Lt. Cmdr. Ron Kooper (USCG LNO to FEMA NRCC), Cmdr. Mike Frender, Cmdr. Rick Hawkins, Lt. Cmdr. Jason Gunning and Lt. Cmdr. Brian Moore (CG-CPE-2), Capt.(sel) Forest Willis, Capt. Paul Kosiba, Capt. Martha LaGuardia, Cmdr. Geoff Warren, Cmdr. Rich Knight, Cmdr. Kerry Higgins, Cmdr. Rich Roberts, Cmdr. Sean Salter, Lt. Cmdr. Kim Guedry, Cmdr. Bob Burke, Rear Adm. (sel.) Stash Pelkowski, Lt. Cmdr. Michael Hunt (USCG LNO to FEMA NRCC). (Not pictured: Cmdr. Paul Gill, Cmdr. Marc Devereaux, Cmdr. Chris Kluckhuhn, Cmdr. Gerry Jackson, Capt. Sloan Tyler, Cmdr. Dennis Brown)

members and representatives from non-governmental organizations, like the Red Cross or local businesses.

Advanced ICS courses, like the ICS 402 Liaison Officer in Yorktown, provide a foundation and credit towards NIMS ICS Type I LOFR certification. The Joint Forces Staff College in Norfolk, Va., offers more in-depth training with its homeland security planning curriculums. FEMA on-line training is highly encouraged.

In addition to attending FEMA and constituent meetings or participating in response exercises, EPLOs participate in a monthly brief for the Office of Contingency Preparedness and Exercise Policy (CG-CPE) leadership to discuss issues in their respective regions. EPLOs from all districts train together annually and maintain a professional network with EPLO program supervisors.

Recently, the EPLOs held their annual training in Washington, D.C. at the new Coast Guard headquarters building. Training topics included Response Exercise preparation, Officer Specialty Codes, Special Victims Counsel Program, Sexual Harassment and Mission Assignment writing. EPLOs toured the FEMA National Response Command Center (NRCC) and attended a national FEMA-interagency-White House brief. The conference was concluded with informative presentations from CG-CPE and CG-13 program directors.

In our view, the Coast Guard EPLO duty is a unique and fulfilling way for a senior officer to serve. It is simultaneously one of the most challenging and rewarding Reserve assignments you can have. The 3-year tour comes to an end all too soon.

**Editor's note:** Cmdr. Hawkins is the 8th Coast Guard District EPLO for FEMA Region VII and Capt. Martha LaGuardia is the Acting EPLO Coordinator for CG-CPE-2 and 1st District EPLO Coordinator for FEMA Regions II and I. Those wishing to learn more about the EPLO program can contact Capt. LaGuardia at [martha.laguardia@uscg.mil](mailto:martha.laguardia@uscg.mil).

— Submitted by Cmdr. Rick Hawkins and Capt. Martha LaGuardia

# Tying it all together:

## Container inspection training in the Port of Tampa

On an unseasonably cold and blustery day in Tampa, 22 reservists and two active duty members from Sector St. Petersburg's Prevention Department gathered beside a stack of shipping containers.

Conducted in Tampa, the training was the culmination of a five-day, on-site class provided by the Coast Guard's Container Inspection Assistance Team (CITAT) from Oklahoma City, Ok. An increasingly constrained budget provided the impetus for innovative ways to train reservists. Conducting the training in Tampa equals a savings of more than \$20,000, which is critical during an austere budget.

"The training location was excellent," said Lt. Cmdr. Donna Cobb, Operations Section Chief of Prevention at Sector St. Petersburg. "I'm grateful since it's really competitive to get into the CITAT course as a reservist," she said.

The Port of Tampa, which handled more than 40,000 containers in 2013, provided an ideal training venue with real-world scenarios in the actual place where Sector St. Petersburg reservists routinely perform container inspection duties.

Located adjacent to the Interstate-4 corridor, Tampa's port is widely considered the gateway to Florida's distribution centers. Typically, petroleum-based products, such as jet fuel, transit through the Florida's busiest cargo port, as well as an array of construction and building products. That bolsters the notion that critical container inspection training is necessary.

"Check the numbers, visually inspect the outside, and be sure you have a designated safety person," cautioned Lt. Cmdr. Anthony Migliorini, an instructor and chief of the Container Inspection School.

As he spoke, students thumbed intently through their workbooks and the Code of Federal Regulations. Their weeklong training included intensive classroom instruction, including regulations, policies, and laws applicable to cargo inspection and the transport of hazardous materials. The training concluded with a hands-on practical session in the port.

As the first group of students safely opened a container full of fertilizer stored on pallets, a second group started cross-checking numbers and conducting visual inspections. Before fully opening the container's doors, students were shown the proper way to secure a strap to a locking bar on each door. Containers hold thousands of pounds of freight, and as they are transported on ships across the globe their contents can shift. In port, they are moved with heavy machinery, and the strain on steel welds meant to keep them intact can create structural integrity concerns. Additionally, secured cargo can loosen from its pallet inside a container because of gale force winds and the sloshing of waves at sea. Therefore, inspectors might examine a multitude of items. They are taught to search for damage caused by deep rust, holes, or fractures that might weaken the overall integrity of a container. In the Tampa class, students discovered a gap in the wall of one container and immediately began measuring to assess its depth, and evaluate strength and transport viability. While reviewing safety issues, they also discovered some containers did not have proper documentation.

"Training just got real," said one student.

As students found six containers and tankers with deficiencies, Marine Science Technician 1st Class Jeromy Sherrill offered instruction in filling out the Hazardous Material and Intermodal Container Inspection Report.

An enthusiastic interchange ensued as students demonstrated a clear interest in applying didactic knowledge to an actual situation. That was followed by a discussion about international standards and U.N. markings while students flipped through their newly-tabbed books. It also became apparent the work backgrounds of the reserve crew provided added awareness and insight.

"Diverse thinking ensures you are aware not only about what's in the container but of the container itself," said Marine Science Technician 1st Class, Scott Morton, a CITAT instructor.

Students also conducted structural integrity exams on containers searching for hazardous material leaks, proper tagging with chemical names, and looking for discrepancies in shipping paperwork.

"As we've learned from recent news events, safety and following regulations in our ports are critical to the security of our nation," said Cobb.

As if on cue, Morton explained proper use of container seals. Then he reviewed a few basic safety rules.



MST2 Brian Mangum (left) from Sector St. Petersburg confers with MST2 Emily Hamilton and MST3 at the Port of Tampa, Florida on March 13, 2014 as part of the practical portion of their week-long container inspection qualifications training. Applying what they learned from Container Inspection Team instructors from Oklahoma City, Okla., discussed the Code of Federal Regulations, relating it to observable discrepancies found in their practical examination of containers at the port.

Photo by BM1 Chad Nicolai



"It's critical to always have a safety observer," he said. As Lt. j.g. Andrew Siworksi carefully pried a container door open Morton seized it as a teaching moment.

"The main thing you want is proper ventilation...these things can pop open quickly," he said.

Migliorini chimed in, explaining the value of standardizing one's visual inspection and establishing a routine.

"When you look for damage on the exterior or interior, give it a thorough look," he said. "Check for patchwork repairs, look for flush plates, inspect for corner cracking, and ensure it is viable structurally and safe to go to sea."

Those points helped make the link between classroom material and practical training. While the course covered an impressive volume of challenging and important material, training in the Port of Tampa helped tie it all together.

"There's so much information, so actually conducting an inspection makes it less abstract," said Marine Science Technician 2nd Class, Emily Hamilton.

Behind the scenes, a strong track record of collaboration between the Sector St. Petersburg Prevention Department and officials at the Port of Tampa paved the way for conducting the practical portion of the class. That spirit of collaboration was further developed between enlisted members and officers working in tandem with one another during the CITAT class.

According to Lt. Cmdr. Richard Lavigne, Chief, Reserve Management Branch, 7th District, that's an important benefit.

"While crews might not work together on a regular basis, the camaraderie and knowledge developed during the course affords them an opportunity to increase communication, cooperation and collaboration, which is essential for performance and high safety standards," said Lavigne. "It's incredibly helpful to bring a group together to bolster efficiency, information sharing and skills building."

What also stands out is that flying three instructors to Tampa to conduct the course locally provided an economical way to train two-dozen inspectors, while also allowing mock safety inspections of intermodal containers in the place where reservists perform their inspection duties. It represents a cost savings of more than \$17,000. "Because this training was a success in terms of return on investment and training perspectives, this model serves as a catalyst for coordinating additional training," said Lavigne. "In fact, Sector Jacksonville will be holding one in July," he said.

Instructors also say the venue was well-suited to their teaching goals.

"We want to ensure our inspectors are able to ask questions and become completely aware of their environment, potential safety issues, and to understanding the factors involved in an inspection," said Migliorini.

The training offered a way to link policy and theory to practical applications. Adding in the significant cost savings only further proved the road-show model was invaluable to reservists, their active duty counterparts, and the American taxpayer.

— Story by Lt. Peter Webber,  
Sector St. Pete, Reserve Force Readiness Staff  
and PAC Judy Silverstein, 7th District Public Affairs

# MSU Texas City assists Galveston Cruise Terminal K-9 Explosives Detection Team

Submitted by Lt. Brad Bryan, MSU Texas City



Safety and security examinations at the Galveston Cruise Terminal are among the many security checks, transfer monitors, and explosives load-outs that reservists of the Marine Safety Unit (MSU) Texas City Facility Inspection team are responsible for each month. In May, members of the team, including Lt Brad Bryan, MEC Glen Fuhs, and MST3 Natalie Riley, worked closely with the cruise terminal's K-9 Explosives Detection Team to provide area sweeps and screen unattended baggage, luggage, and pallets of stores being loaded onto the Carnival Triumph and Magic. Efforts such as these provided by the MSU Texas City Facility Inspection Team, ensure the safety of more than 600,000 passengers sailing from Galveston to their vacation destinations across the western Caribbean.



ME1 Wesley Mundy, the 2103 Reserve Enlisted Person of the Year, is meritoriously advanced to Chief Petty Officer during a ceremony onboard the USS *Wisconsin* in Norfolk, Va., June, 17.

Photo by Michelle Paul





# Enlisted Excellence

Reserve Enlisted Persons of the Year:

*The Best of the Best for 2013*

## Commitment to Mission Readiness Defines Reserve Enlisted Person of the Year

Routinely working 75 hour work weeks and 17 days straight? "It's a result of our mission," says Petty Officer 1st Class Wesley Mundy, a reservist assigned to the Special Missions Training Center, deployment training detachment. What is this mission? Preparing hundreds of Coast Guard men and women for their upcoming deployments.

Mundy, the 5th District Reserve Enlisted Person of the Year, lives in Maui, Hawaii, and voluntarily accepted orders more than 5,000 miles from his family to share his passion for maritime law enforcement and ensure members of the service are ready for their new assignment. This commitment led to his selection as the 2013 Coast Guard Reserve Enlisted Person of the Year.

As a maritime enforcement specialist, Mundy plays a critical role serving as the expeditionary warfare instructor, preparing hundreds of reservists for deployment to the Persian Gulf area of operations in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. He is a full time instructor who has enabled nearly 700 students to become deployment ready in the last two years.

In addition to teaching skills necessary for their upcoming deployment, Mundy also offers students his own personal deployment experiences, allowing them to gain insight into life overseas and prepare for their tour of duty. He routinely dedicates countless hours of his personal time to give students extra training in military tactics, Aikido and even organizes grueling physical training sessions for interested students.

"Mundy's positive attitude, devotion to duty and ubiquitous smile are positively infectious to other Special Mission Training Center instructors, support staff and students," said his supervisor, Chief Petty Officer Douglas Schneider.

Along with his primary instructor duties, Mundy also serves as a firearms instructor, law enforcement instructor and is the unit's first reservist water survival training master. Recognizing several students struggling with weapons systems, he volunteered extra range training, enabling them to build confidence and eventually earn a qualification on weapons systems

necessary for deployment.

He takes it upon himself to improve procedures and streamline processes, enabling training to continue unhindered. He created an original weapons performance qualification standard presentation and range pre-firing brief for all firearms instructors, standardizing the process for weapons qualifications. Upon recognizing a necessity of an instructor development course for the Middle Eastern training team, he generated his own curriculum and delivered the innovative instructor course to all training team instructors.

Readying service members for overseas deployments isn't Mundy's only mission. In addition to his devotion to the maritime law enforcement mission, he has dedicated his personal time to helping others in need. He opens his home to members serving on temporary duty assignments in the area. When Hurricane Sandy ravaged the Gulf Coast, Mundy set up a donation drive to help those negatively affected and took leave to help rebuild lost homes.

"Petty Officer Mundy stands out not merely because of his extraordinary competence, but rather because of his unflinching loyalty to his shipmates, the service and the mission," added Schneider.

As a civilian, Mundy works with the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement. As a field supervisor, Mundy coordinates resources and maritime law enforcement operations for a district on the island of Oahu.

Mundy's commitment to the maritime law enforcement, training and the Coast Guard's core values resulted in his selection for Reserve Enlisted Person of the Year and, as a result, he will be meritoriously advanced to chief petty officer in an upcoming ceremony.

"I am honored to have been selected as Reserve Enlisted Person of the Year," says Mundy. "I have been fortunate. There is no other way to say it. I am surrounded by stellar performers who are just as deserving, and in some cases more deserving, as I am."

— *Story by Lt. j.g. Katharine Baynard, CG Public Affairs and reprinted from the Compass Blog*

## 2013 Reserve Enlisted Person of the Year



**Wesley Mundy**

**Maritime Enforcement  
Specialist First Class**

**Deployment Training  
Detachment,  
Special Mission  
Training Center**

**North Carolina**





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## First District Reservist Recognized For Exemplary Performance of Duty

April 15, 2013 was just another workday for Petty Officer 2nd Class Alec Donoso. It was also the day of the annual Boston Marathon, although the event that year will forever be remembered for the horrific bombing attack that occurred near the finish line.

Donoso and his coworkers were gathering their things to head home when the news of the attack came on the television.

"As soon as they said 'multiple explosions' we all were very cognizant that this was on purpose and immediately went back to our seats and prepared for a pretty intense 24 hours," said Donoso.

Donoso was assigned to the Coast Guard 1st District Response Division in Boston. His duties included supporting law-enforcement operations through gathering information and monitoring agency channels of communication.

Donoso immediately went to work, standing an overnight watch with the Incident Command Post at Sector Boston, then transferred the day after the attack to the FBI Command Post, where he served as the Coast Guard liaison to the multiple federal agencies involved in the investigation. Donoso spent the next two weeks collecting and sharing pertinent information and providing support.

His actions during the aftermath of the Boston Marathon bombing, as well as his outstanding professional performance during 2013, earned him the selection as the 1st District Region Reserve Enlisted Person of the Year.

Donoso grew up in Maine near the Penobscot Bay area and attended college at Clark University in Worcester, Mass. During his junior year, Donoso completed an internship at Coast Guard Headquarters, working with the division of International Affairs and Foreign Policy.

While Donoso was aware of the Coast Guard as a military service, participating in the internship

cemented in his mind that he wanted to enlist.

"I always knew I wanted to serve and work in the government in some way or another," he said. "It was something I wanted to be a part of. To see what opportunities came my way, and what kind of adventures the Coast Guard would send me on."

Donoso enlisted in the service as a reservist in 2009, just before starting his senior year at college, and was stationed at Sector Boston, before his assignment at the 1st District.

He has been on active duty operational support (ADOS) orders since October 2012, and his commitment while on orders has impressed his supervisor.

"[Petty Officer Donoso is a] very smart and dedicated individual; he's all the things you would hope an employee would be," said Chief Petty Officer Stacie Kaye, tactical support section supervisor at the 1st District. "He is analytical and thoughtful about his work, giving everything due diligence. He pays attention to the details."

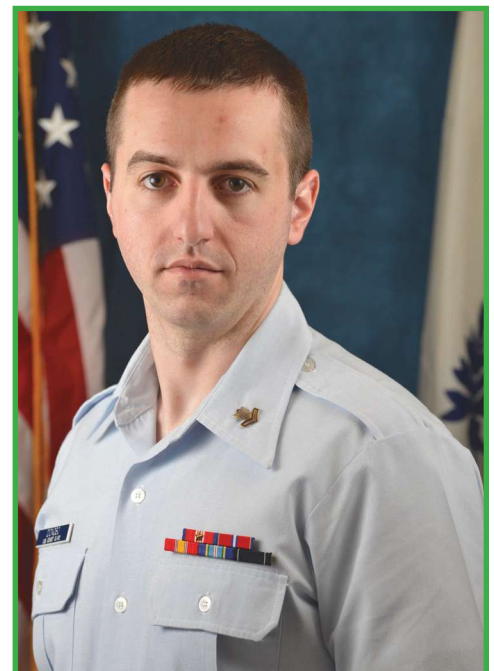
In addition to his work following the aftermath of the attack, Donoso's efforts and tenacity on the job contributed in the Coast Guard seizing 1,300 pounds of cocaine and stopping 29 major fishing violations.

"I've been very lucky in my Coast Guard career and have had excellent mentors and leaders," said Donoso. "[They] were hugely instrumental in building and shaping me and getting me ready to advance in to the next phase of my career."

The next phase will be a new service all together as Donoso transferred in April to the U.S. Navy to attend officer candidate school. Following the 12-week training, Donoso will be an active duty Ensign.

"I'm hoping to utilize my experience in the Coast Guard and build on that for the Navy," said Donoso.

— By PA1 Krystyna Hannum



**Alec Donoso**

**Intelligence Specialist  
Second Class**

**Response Division  
First District**

**Massachusetts**



## Leadership and Volunteerism Define Seventh District's RPOY or It's All About His Crew

As a seventh grade world history teacher at the Military Magnet Academy in Charleston Heights, South Carolina, Petty Officer 1st Class, Daniel Coen, is no stranger to service.

Recently, Coen was named the Reserve Petty Officer of the Year (RPOY) for the Seventh Coast Guard District. Serving on active duty in support of Military Outloads, he serves as assistant shop supervisor for the Electronic Systems Support Detachment (ESD) at Sector Charleston. Coen and his crew perform electronic maintenance for radio systems, communication, and computer systems for three small boat stations and three cutters.

His award highlights a "consistent demonstration of outstanding technical proficiency, leadership, and integrity in the performance of his duties". This was evident when he assumed his current role at ESD Charleston, flawlessly leading a team of 30 to logging more than 1,800 maintenance and repair procedures and 10,000 hours of preventive maintenance for the Coast Guard. Coen's supervisor, Chief Electronics Technician Kirk Hurn, concurs with the praise and shared some of his own.

"I've known him for a decade... ET1 is probably one of the best leaders I've ever seen in the Coast Guard; he truly cares about the people he works with," said Hurn.

As if that was not impressive enough, Coen volunteers as a tutor in his off-duty time, helping students realize their full potential. Because of his interest in the maritime environment, he is also an active volunteer for beach and river cleanup duties and devotes time to helping the less fortunate with an annual Thanksgiving food drive. Colleagues say it is his commitment to service that defines Coen.

Coen joined the active duty Coast

Guard in 1995 and transitioned to the Reserves eight years later. Enthusiastic about highlighting Coast Guard missions, Coen seizes opportunities to talk to potential recruits.

"I joined the Coast Guard to ... serve the public and I take a lot of pride when I talk about the Coast Guard to others".

Lt. Cmdr. Richard Lavigne, Chief of the Reserve Management Branch at the Seventh District described Coen as passionate about serving others.

"He's always in pursuit of new skills and experiences, and he's crafted a life of service that blends his reserve work with both his civilian work and outside interests," Lavigne said. "When you combine his work ethic and great attitude with a passion for leadership, you've got an exemplary role model and template for success in the Reserves."

An avid outdoorsman, Coen also enjoys boating, playing golf, and softball.

On his current assignment, Coen is pursuing a growing and personal interest in leadership and credits his current assignment with giving him previously unexplored opportunities.

"I'm doing a lot of things as far as leadership management, personnel management, and asset management, so I do a lot of different things that I normally wouldn't be able to as a reservist," Coen explained.

However, he is quick to add that his Reserve focus is all about his crew.

"I've been in for 20 years now, and I'm excited about going to work every day." Coen's demonstrates an unwavering devotion to duty and understands the value of service. When asked about his success, "I'm a big recruiter for the Coast Guard. I love the Coast Guard."

He remains as enthusiastic as the day he joined.

— By PA3 Joey Betson,  
Seventh District Public Affairs



## 7TH DISTRICT



**Dan Coen**

**Electronics  
Technician  
First Class**

**Sector Charleston**

**South Carolina**

## PSU 308 Member Selected as 8th District Reserve Enlisted Person of the Year

In a ceremony held at the National World War II Museum in New Orleans, La., on Friday, March 14, 2014, Rear Adm. Kevin Cook, Commander, 8th Coast Guard District, presided over a ceremony honoring Petty Officer 1st Class Michael Bruno as the district's Reserve Enlisted Person of the Year. Bruno is a Maritime Enforcement Specialist assigned to Port Security Unit 308 in Kiln, Miss.

During the ceremony Master Chief Joe Pasqua, 8th District Reserve Command Master Chief, noted that, "Petty Officer Bruno is a resilient, devoted and steadfast leader whose direct efforts led to 195 hours of training, certification of seven tactical coxswains, eight boarding team members, and 178 small arm qualifications on six different courses of fire."

Bruno also created two best practices for the ballistic Plate Log and an easy-to-use resource manual, which are now implemented within the Deployable Specialized Forces (DSF) community. He also led his unit through a top to bottom inventory of more than \$8 million in unit resources and earned the highest accountability score among the DSF units.

A tireless worker, Bruno also volunteers in his community to feed the homeless, tutor college students and assists the elderly during the holidays, all while running his own business and completing 27 college credit hours towards his bachelor's degree.



**Michael Bruno**

**Maritime Enforcement  
Specialist  
First Class**

**Port Security Unit 308**

**Mississippi**



**Rear Adm. Kevin Cook, 8th District Commander, recognizes ME1 Michael Bruno, as the 8th Districts Reserve Person of the Year.**

*Photo by 8th District Public Affairs*



## Station Marblehead Member Selected as 9th District Reserve Enlisted Person of the Year

If you have the pleasure of meeting Petty Officer 1st Class Brian Williams, a machinery technician from Columbus, Ohio, the last thing he wants to talk about is his age. "Age is just a number," he says, trying to shrug off any suggestion that his age is relevant to his intriguing 14-year Coast Guard career. Yet his age is central to the plot of his compelling life.

Currently assigned to Coast Guard Station Marblehead, Ohio, the 14-year veteran has been named the 2013 Coast Guard 9th District's Reserve Enlisted Person of the Year. He will now compete against other enlisted persons of the year from the eight other Coast Guard districts to be named the Coast Guard's Enlisted Person of the Year.

This award is especially sweet for someone who had to try three separate times just to enlist. His ambition to join began in earnest at the tender age of 39. Much to his chagrin, a recruiter informed him that he was too old to join. A year later, a second attempt also left Williams with a sense of disappointment that his age would preclude him from enlisting. Finally, at age 42, fate would descend upon Williams. A chance encounter with a U.S. Coast Guard Captain during the course of his civilian job would reignite his passion and his dogged determination to join the Coast Guard. He found himself back in a recruiter's office with a newfound resolve that culminated in his third and finally successful attempt at becoming a proud member of the Coast Guard Reserve.

That determination continues to motivate those around him. "He is a constant inspiration to all of us who serve — demonstrated by his service to our country as a reservist, his service as a firefighter and EMT, and his devotion to his family, as a husband and father of 11 children," said Chief Petty Officer Patrick Howerton, the acting senior enlisted reserve advisor at Station Marblehead. "His enthusiasm and work ethic bring out the best in all of us."

When asked why he wanted to join the

Coast Guard the first word that pops out of his mouth is "fate." He goes on, "The mission of the Coast Guard fits my personality. You train in anticipation of somebody in need; you always have to be ready to save those in harm's way."

This self-realization led Williams to pursue another improbable career move at the age of 52. In 2010, he became the oldest person to successfully go through the Columbus Fire Academy. He is currently in his fourth year as a firefighter and EMT in Columbus, working for a department responsible for the lives and safety of over 800,000 residents.

The anachronism of Williams' career trajectory is best demonstrated by his son Austin, who is fond of saying, "My dad is a second-generation firefighter." Austin, 28, along with his younger brother Tyler, 26, became firefighters before their father did.

In addition to the demands of full-time firefighting and serving in the Coast Guard, Williams is a busy father with a large family. In keeping with his nature of always giving back, he, along with his family, finds time to volunteer together at the Ronald McDonald house at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus. The Ronald McDonald house serves families of seriously ill children by providing a place for them to stay while the children undergo medical treatment. His activities in the community also include providing fire safety to schoolchildren and local businesses and he serves as an advisor for the diesel mechanic program at the Eastland Career Center.

"I am honored that my command would see fit to nominate me for such a prestigious award," Williams says. When asked if he lives by any creed or motto, he responded, "Never give up." That is an apt description for a man who continues to pursue his dreams while inspiring those around him.

— Story by PA3 Paul Dragin



## 9TH DISTRICT



**Brian Williams**

**Machinery Technician  
First Class**

**Station Marblehead**

**Ohio**

## 11th District Recognizes Reserve Enlisted Person of the Year

Always ready to serve where needed, Petty Officer 2nd Class Blaine Meserve-Nibley was named the 11th Coast Guard District's 2013 Reserve Enlisted Person of the Year (REPOY).

As a member of the Pacific Strike Team, Nibley is highly trained to respond to environmental hazards and mass destruction emergencies around the world. He is currently deployed to Afghanistan where he was selected as a team member for the Redeployment Assistance and Inspection Detachment (RAID). The RAID team, which consists of U.S. Army and Coast Guard members, ensures that hazardous cargo is properly prepared for shipment and for re-entry to U.S. ports.

"I have always wanted to serve my country in a manner that extended past our continental borders and I am honored to be representing the Coast Guard in Afghanistan," said Nibley.

Prior to his tour in Afghanistan, Nibley's significant contributions to the Coast Guard both on-and off-duty throughout 2013 earned him a Coast Guard Commendation Medal.

In a little over a year's time Nibley responded to the pollution threats of Hurricane Sandy on the East Coast; supported operations to decontaminate soil levels on Indian Island in Humboldt Bay on the West Coast; volunteered his personal time to assist Pacific Strike Team members with EMT training and Ready-for-Operations drills; proudly served as a color guard member for two NFL football games; and conducted military funeral honors for four Coast Guard veterans.

"The guy is a machine," said Chief

Petty Officer Gerald Wheeler, Reserve Command Chief at the Pacific Strike Team. "How else can you get all these things accomplished in a year? That's just who he is."

When not deployed to environmental threats around the world, Nibley is a full-time student at the California Maritime Academy (CMA) with hopes of commissioning with the Coast Guard when he graduates. He's majoring in Global Studies and Maritime Affairs.

And when the Coast Guard Liaison office on the CMA campus closed its doors due to budget cuts, guess who stepped forward to fill the gap?

"In addition to everything else he's doing, on his own time, Blaine started showing up in his uniform to keep that Liaison office open," said Wheeler.

Nibley asked Recruiting Command if he could volunteer as a liaison for cadets interested in learning about opportunities in the Coast Guard. "Some days I would receive 10-20 emails and phone calls from prospective parents and students wanting to know what the Coast Guard options are," said Nibley.

Nibley's volunteer efforts at the CMA saved the Coast Guard's Recruiting Command \$3,500 and over 100 staff hours. During that time, he hosted the Nation's largest Auxiliary University Program, an outreach effort that connects college students with the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

"He serves others and he's all about things that are larger than himself," said Wheeler of Nibley. "It's an honor to be able to work with someone like him."

— Story by PA2 Gina Ruoti



## 11<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT



**Blaine Meserve-Nibley**

**Marine Science  
Technician  
Second Class**

**Redeployment Assistance  
and Inspection  
Detachment,  
Pacific Strike Team**

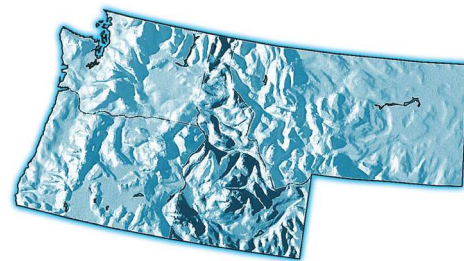


## 13th District Names Reserve Enlisted Person of the Year

During a recognition banquet at Coast Guard Base Seattle, Friday, March 14, 2014, Petty Officer 3rd Class Lawrence Mayers, a Reserve boatswain's mate assigned to Coast Guard Station Yaquina Bay in Newport, Ore., was selected as the 13th District's Reserve Enlisted Person of the Year.

Mayers has also gone above and beyond the requirements of his billet serving as a member of Station Yaquina Bay's Ceremonial Honor Guard in multiple high-profile engagements in Newport, Ore., an official Coast Guard City. As a small boat crewmember, he performed more than 42 missions and completed nearly 100 underway hours.

Mayers, a full-time facilities manager at Oregon State University, is also an active member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary. He recently earned his third Auxiliary sustained service ribbon for performing 2,250 volunteer service hours. He participates in the Auxiliary's Recreational Boating Safety Program, teaches boating safety and seamanship skills at Linn Benton College, chairs several Oregon State University advisory boards and assists with children's ministry at his local church.



# 13<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT



**Lawrence Mayers**

**Boatswain Mate  
Third Class**

**Station Yaquina Bay**

**Oregon**



**Rear Adm. Richard T. Gromlich, 13th District Commander, presents BM3 Lawrence Mayers with the District's 2013 Reserve Enlisted Person of the Year award during a ceremonial dinner held at Base Seattle, March 14.**

*Photo by PA3 Katelyn Shearer*

## Station Apra Harbor Reservist Selected as 14th District Reserve Enlisted Person of the Year

Petty Officer First Class Michael Genereux was recognized as the 2013 Reserve Enlisted Person of the Year for the 14th District during a banquet at Coast Guard Base Honolulu, Hawaii on March 21, 2014.

A Machinery Technician, Genereux is assigned to Coast Guard Station Apra Harbor, Guam.

The Enlisted Person of the Year Program is designed to recognize exemplary men and women from the Active Duty and Reserve enlisted work force who are top performers and reflect the Coast Guard's core values of Honor, Respect and Devotion to Duty.

Considered the "best and brightest" from the field, these individuals are selected by a panel of senior enlisted members and evaluated against a set of established criteria that includes performance, work ethics, military bearing, standards of conduct and a strong community service commitment.



**MK1 Michael Genereux, Station Apra Harbor, surveys the coastline for "Oscar," a U.S. Coast Guard search and rescue dummy, during Exercise Cope North, Feb. 19. Cope North, is an annual exercise designed to strengthen regional partnerships, warfighter integration, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief interoperability.**

*Photo by Senior Airman Katrina M. Brisbin, USAF*



## 14<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT



**Michael Genereux**

**Machinery Technician  
First Class**

**Station Apra Harbor**

**Guam**



# Sector Anchorage Reservist Named 17th District Reserve Enlisted Person of the Year

The Coast Guard 17th District 2013 Reserve Enlisted Person of the Year is Petty Officer Third Class Nicolai Tykalsky, a Wasilla, Alaska, native serving as a maritime enforcement specialist at Sector Anchorage.

Tykalsky's nomination came as a result of his outstanding work with the Sector Anchorage enforcement division and the time he has devoted to the community of Anchorage.

The Coast Guard Reserve is an important resource for the Coast Guard and reserve members complement active duty personnel in a wide range of missions. During his time with Sector Anchorage, Tykalsky was instrumental in 22 boating safety operations and boarded more than 200 vessels during the busy summer season.

"Petty Officer Tykalsky quickly established himself as a superb shipmate and asset to our team," said Petty Officer 1st Class Joseph Harwell, a reserve maritime enforcement specialist serving in Anchorage who nominated Tykalsky for this honor. "When I learned about all he's done to improve his skills and to help the community I couldn't think of anyone more deserving of this nomination."

In addition to drilling with the Coast Guard, Tykalsky attended classes at the University of Alaska earning a degree in criminal justice with a minor in psychology. Furthermore, he went on

to be accepted into the prestigious Alaska state law enforcement academy in Fairbanks. However, Tykalsky wasn't nominated solely for his dedication to the Coast Guard and self-improvement.

"Petty Officer Tykalsky, like all other reserves, represents the U.S. Coast Guard in everything he does on and off duty," said Harwell. "His involvement with the community has made a name for the Coast Guard in Alaska and for himself, but he isn't doing it for the recognition."

In his spare time Tykalsky regularly instructs a firearms safety course, which promotes knowledgeable firearms handling to the general public. Tykalsky also teaches a women's self defense course and volunteers time to the Alaska State Troopers' Wish Upon a Northern Star program serving terminally ill children. During the holidays, Tykalsky worked with the Santa Cop and Heroes program providing Christmas gifts to senior citizens and helped serve 700 meals to the homeless Christmas Day.

"It's an honor to accept the nomination for the 2013 17th District Reserve Petty Officer of the Year," said Tykalsky. "The Coast Guard is the smallest branch of the military, but the amount of good we do with so few people makes me extremely proud to be a Coast Guardsman." 🦋

— Story by PA1 Shawn Eggert



**Nicolai Tykalsky**

**Maritime Enforcement  
Specialist  
Third Class**

**Sector Anchorage**

**Alaska**





# Sustainable Seas

Coast Guard Student Art Contest Challenges  
Participants to Express Artistic Solutions

Story by Emily Harcum,  
Communications Specialist  
CG Civil Rights Directorate







# Kindergarten – Fifth Grade Finalists



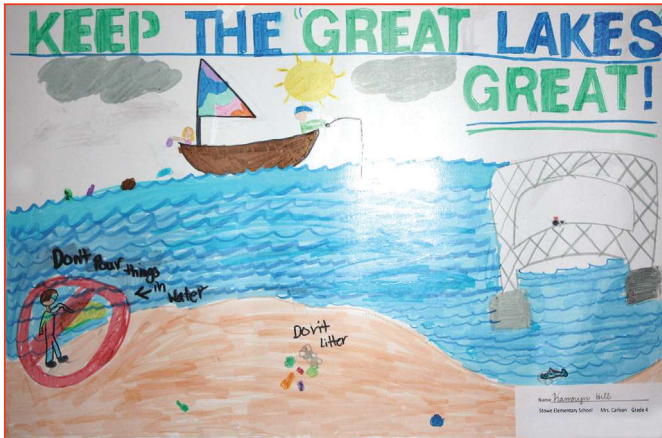
FINALIST: Jenny Zhao

Grade 5



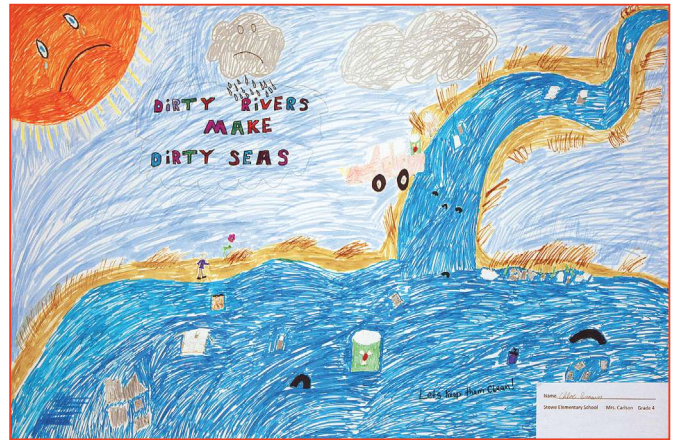
GRAND PRIZE WINNER: Gabriella Marescost

Grade 5



FINALIST: Kamryn Hill

Grade 4



FINALIST: Chloe Brown

Grade 4



FINALIST: Summer Rabold

Grade 4



FINALIST: Elaine Li & Miriam Mei, Eileen Li

Grades 5 & 4

What is one step people could take to create healthier, more sustainable seas? How can we use the resources needed to live healthy and fulfilling lives without endangering the future well-being of the planet and all the creatures that call it home? How can we use our aquatic resources to help meet our needs in terms of food, transportation, and recreation, but in a responsible way?

This year's annual Coast Guard Student Art Contest posed these questions to students in grades K-12, challenging them to illustrate their ideas and solutions in colorful works of art. Initiated on the 20th anniversary of the Coast Guard's Partnership in Education (PIE) Program, the contest has encouraged students across the country to create art that inspires others and motivates them to take action to conserve and protect our nation's waterways and ecosystems.

In 2011, Coast Guard partnered with the North American Marine Environmental Protection Association (NAMEPA) and the Sea Research Foundation, parent organization of JASON Learning, to sponsor what has become an International Student Art Contest. The first international competition, seeking to raise awareness about climate change among students, revolved around the theme, "Let's Change Our Habits, Not the Climate."

Participation over the past five years has grown exponentially each year, with annual themes ranging from "Mariners Help Save our Seas" to "Wrecks of the World." Despite this dramatic increase in competition, students from Coast Guard PIE schools performed extremely well in 2013, claiming 5 of the 12 finalist spots. Rebecca Wright, a third grade student at PIE school, Cape Hatteras Elementary, and the daughter of



# Sixth – Twelfth Grade Finalists



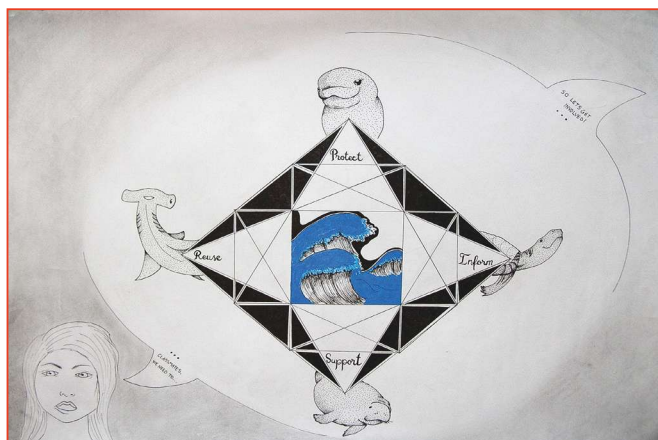
**GRAND PRIZE WINNER: Toree Wright**

**Grade 10**



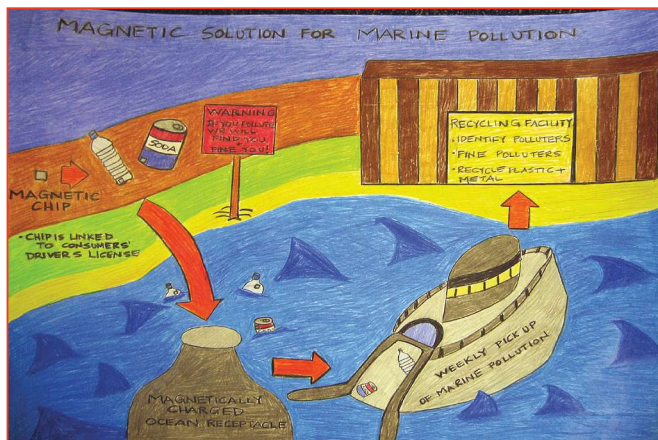
**FINALIST: Stephanie Yambo**

**Grade 7**



**FINALIST: Teodora Vecerdi**

**Grade 12**



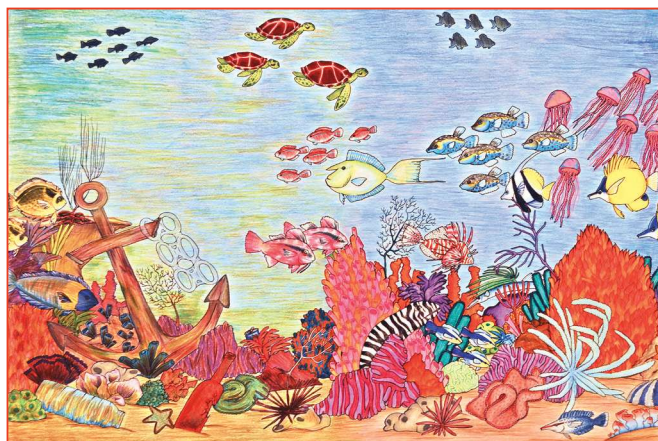
**FINALIST: Mila MacLeod**

**Grade 6**



**FINALIST: Tessa Yarbrough**

**Grade 8**



**FINALIST: Charlie Wagoner**

**Grade 11**

BMCS Christopher Wright (Station Hatteras Inlet) was one of those selected. The artwork by Wright as well as grand prize winner, Matthew Petrie, and finalists, Maanav Patel, Caroline Allmon, and Krupa Patel from PIE school, Yorktown Elementary were among those featured on JASON Learning's website and published in the International Art Contest Calendar.

This year's contest invited students to depict their ideas on "Sustainable Seas," reinforcing the effective implementation focus of the International Maritime Organization's World Maritime Day. From more than 345 entries, twelve finalists were selected and their original artwork will be featured on the JASON Learning, NAMEPA, and U.S. Coast Guard websites as well as in a colorful, commemorative 2015 calendar.

The talented finalists include Jenny Zhao, Chloe Brown, Elaine Li, Miriam Mei, Eileen Li, Summer Rabold, Kamryn Hill, Teodora Vecerdi, Mila MacLeod, Charlie Wagoner, Stephanie Yambo, and Tessa Yarbrough. These finalists, from grades K-5 and grades 6-12, won a copy of the calendar and a certificate recognizing their achievement.

Gabriella Maresco and Toree Wright, the grand prize winners, each earned the calendar and certificate, as well as a signed photograph and book from the world-famous oceanographer Dr. Robert Ballard, \$100 cash, and a Coast Guard-themed package. Congratulations to all participants for their inspiring works of art!

For more information about the International Student Art Contest visit [www.uscg.mil/PIE-resources](http://www.uscg.mil/PIE-resources) or call 202-372-4519



# Reservist has Coast Guard crew honored after almost nine decades

Story by PA3 Jim Connor, USCGR

Walking near his station on a lunch break in 2008 during a drill weekend, Petty Officer 1st Class Kevin Rofidal, a maritime enforcement specialist at Marine Safety Unit Duluth, Minn., at that time, stopped to read a plaque dedicated to the sacrifice of Petty Officer 1st Class Edgar Culbertson, a boatswains mate from Station Duluth.

Culbertson lost his life while trying to rescue three stranded boys on a pier in Lake Superior on April 30, 1967. As Rofidal read the plaque, a tourist began reading it as well. When the tourist began asking Rofidal questions he couldn't answer, it ignited a spark in him that resulted in months of research, a presentation of the Coast Guard Medal to the children of Culbertson, and a memorial service at MSU Duluth in Culbertson's honor, 42 years to the day after he had perished. Members of the Fraternal Order of Police attended the memorial service and presented a Medal of Valor to his family.

Not only did Rofidal find and meet Culbertson's children, he provided them with information they never knew when they learned their father had died more than four decades earlier. He introduced the family to the young fireman who had been tethered to their father during the rescue attempt and helped them appreciate their father's heroism.

"I don't think the wounds of losing a loved one ever fully close, but maybe this can help them heal," said Rofidal.

The National Law Enforcement Memorial, located on Judiciary Square in Washington, D.C., honors more than 20,000 U.S. law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty. The memorial features a reflecting pool surrounded by walkways on a 3-acre park. The walls lining the walkways are inscribed with the names of those officers as an eternal testament to their sacrifice.

After sharing the new information with Culbertson's family, Rofidal took one step further and submitted Culbertson's name for inclusion on the National Law Enforcement Memorial. Culbertson was approved and added in 2010. Little did Rofidal know this was not the last Coast Guard hero whose name he would help add to the memorial.

"The Coast Guard law enforcement community is lucky to have a shipmate of this caliber amongst our ranks," said Master Chief Petty Officer Philip Roy, who is assigned to the enforcement division in Sector Southeast New England. "I had the distinct pleasure of meeting Petty Officer Rofidal in 2010 when his tireless efforts

and dedicated research led to Petty Officer Edgar Culbertson's inclusion on the National Law Enforcement Memorial."

Most recently, Rofidal was approached by Chris Cosgriff, founder of Officer Down Memorial Page, Inc., a non-profit organization that maintains a website listing American, Canadian, central European, Australian, and New Zealander law enforcement officers and prison officers who have died in the line of duty.

Cosgriff informed him of a Coast Guard crew that perished in the 1920's during a prohibition patrol. With Rofidal's newfound knowledge of the process for having fallen heroes added to the memorial, this was right up his alley. During a year of research, their story unfolded.

In the winter of 1927, the eight-man crew of Coast Guard Patrol Boat CG-238 was patrolling off the coast of Cape Cod, Mass., four miles east of Highland Light. They were on the lookout for "rum runners" who might be smuggling illegal alcohol into the U.S.

The crew had encountered horrific winter weather and gale force winds. Although this wasn't their first battle in similar conditions, this storm proved to be too much for the boat to handle. When the coxswain attempted to anchor in hopes of waiting out the storm, the unforgiving seas ripped the anchor from the seabed. The patrol boat requested assistance, but the winter storm made it impossible to reach them. The vessel capsized and all eight crew members were lost.

Having a healthy respect for history and a passion for law enforcement and the Coast Guard, Rofidal dedicated his time to having the names of CG-238 added to the National Law Enforcement Memorial.





"There were so many people involved, and there wasn't one person who I asked for assistance who didn't provide me their full support to the best of their capabilities," said Rofidal of his research efforts.

Research had already been going on for a year, and the case itself was approaching 90 years old. However, at the request of the Commandant's office, more research was needed to be sure there were no other Coast Guard members left out before the submission was completed for the men of CG-238.

More months of detailed research by the Coast Guard historian's office found no additional members, so the names were submitted to the memorial committee.

After three long years, Rofidal completed his mission. Thanks to the help of some of his shipmates, he brought the names and sacrifices of these heroes into the public's view at our nation's capital.

Rofidal is currently a Sergeant for Edina Police Department in Edina, Minn. It was his passion for law enforcement and love of the water which led him to enlist in the Coast Guard Reserve 14 years ago.

"As a full-time police officer, reservist, dedicated husband and father of two, Kevin still makes time to ensure that our rich service history in law enforcement is preserved for future generations and that our fallen brothers and sisters get the recognition duly deserved," said Roy. "I'm honored to call Kevin Rofidal a close friend."

"Whether they happen to be a fireman, police officer, or a member of one of the five branches of the armed services, nobody should be forgotten after sacrificing their life for their fellow citizens," said Rofidal.

Rofidal was asked to attend this year's annual ceremonies on May 13th when officers, friends, colleagues and loved ones of fallen officers from around the nation came together at the annual candlelight vigil as part of National Police Week. The vigil is a special way to honor law enforcement officers from across the U.S. who lost their lives in the line of duty.

Rofidal was at the memorial services when, after 87 years, the crew members of CG-238 were memorialized for their sacrifice on February 20, 1927. The crew of CG-238 consisted of Chief Petty Officer Jesse K. Rivenback, Petty Officer 1st Class Leo S. Krzyzanowski, Petty Officer 1st Class Cornelius C. Shea, Petty Officer 1st Class Raymond H. Clark, Petty Officer 2nd Class Frank C. McCausland, Petty Officer 2nd Class Charles A. Freeburn, Petty Officer 2nd Class Joseph V. Maxim and Petty Officer 3rd Class Clarence Alexander.

"There's a story of heartbreak and strength behind every name on the memorial wall. There are over 20,000 families feeling the pain and loss of a loved one. If a tribute like this can help a little bit with healing, then it's all worth it," said Rofidal.

Now, thanks in part to Rofidal's efforts, the dedication of the crew of CG-238 to our service and our country will never be forgotten.



ABOVE: A 75-foot patrol boat used during Prohibition and a sister ship to CG-238. Photo Courtesy CG Historian's Office

OPPOSITE: ME1 Kevin Rofidal, with Casey and Chris Culbertson, the son and daughter of Coast Guard Petty Officer 1st Class Edgar Culbertson, attend the annual candlelight vigil held at the National Law Enforcement Officers' Memorial May 13, 2010. Their father lost his life while trying to rescue three teenagers in Duluth, Minn. His name was added to the wall of more than 19,000 law enforcement officers who lost their lives while serving the public. Photo by PA1 Anastasia Devlin.

BELOW: ME1 Rofidal at the 2014 Law Enforcement Memorial, May 13, 2014 for the addition of the crew of CG-238 to the National Law Enforcement Memorial. Photo by PA2 Patrick Kelly



# Reservist dedicated to Sea Cadets

Story by PA1 Jennifer Johnson

For Petty Officer 1st Class John Overman, a reservist assigned to Sector Charleston, S.C., it is not about the time committed as a volunteer but more about the long-term development of the kids involved.

"I stress to the cadets, if you want to be a leader for the purpose of telling people what to do, then it won't motivate people," said Overman. "It is more about servant leadership, and they will do what you want if they respect you."

Overman, a maritime enforcement specialist, is one of those volunteers whose passion and time is dedicated to the Hunley-Yorktown United States Sea Cadet Division in Mount Pleasant, S.C.

The U.S. Naval Sea Cadets is a youth-based organization that works in partnership with the Navy and Coast Guard. The organization promotes seamanship, good citizenship, a drug and alcohol-free environment, as well as demonstrating the importance of public service.

Overman has seen this style of leadership work first-hand.

What started off as a simple extracurricular activity for his daughter has turned into a labor of love for Overman. In the past six years, he has worked with more than 150 cadets, including a few that have gone on to attend the U.S. Naval Academy and the Citadel.

Overman was originally drawn to the Sea Cadets when he wanted his daughter Emma, now 18 and gearing up for college herself, to learn more about the maritime services.

"I told her to sign up for a year, but she had to stick with it," said Overman of Emma who became the first female to attain Chief in the [Hunley-Yorktown Chapter] in its 52 years of existence.

"My son Samuel [13] was named League Cadet of Year and the only one to ever make first class and be assigned ship's LPO [Lead Petty Officer]."

Overman is confident that his children's accomplishments are a direct reflection of their dedication and the quality of the Sea Cadet program.

The Sea Cadets wear uniforms, take part in parades and other civic activities throughout the year, and participate in the unit's annual seminal event, a 14-day survival exercise.

"During the 14-day survival training exercise the kids had to jump off a boat, swim to shore and survive," said Overman. "They caught fish with their bare hands, ate plants and made fire."

Weather got the better of the group by swamping their camp area on one of their final days before returning home.

"I witnessed leaders among the cadets as they made sure everyone was okay and shared their food before they took care of themselves."

Overman remains an involved volunteer with the group because he believes the discipline and leadership skills the cadets have learned will remain with them and make them a success later in life.



Coast Guard Reservist, ME1 John Overman, dedicates his spare time to working with youth members of the Sea Cadets. Pictured with Overman are his son Samuel and daughter Emma.

Photos courtesy ME1 John Overman



# NAVAIR appoints civil servant, Coast Guard Reserve officer to head one of its top acquisition programs

Story by Valerie Doster, Communications/Media Specialist,  
Tactical Airlift, Adversary and Support Aircraft

Rising to the top ranks of both the civilian defense workforce and the Coast Guard Reserve isn't easy, but according to Doug Dawson, Naval Air Systems Command's (NAVAIR) program manager for Tactical Airlift, Adversary and Support Aircraft (PMA-207), if you "educate yourself, surround yourself with jobs relevant to today's workforce and seek a mentor you can achieve success in both fields."

After serving 30 years as a civil servant and 37 years as a Coast Guard Reservist, the Philadelphia native was promoted to program manager for the U.S. Navy's Tactical Airlift, Adversary and Support Aircraft Program (PMA-207), during an April 17 ceremony.

"The promotion of a civilian to a (senior) leadership role within a Major Defense Acquisition Program is rare," Vice Adm. Paul Grosklags, principal military deputy for the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Research, Development & Acquisition) told Dawson during his change of command ceremony. "I know you've got the skills. I know you've got the leadership."

Dawson is the first civilian to be selected by NAVAIR leadership to take over an Acquisition Category 1C (ACAT 1C) program. As an ACAT 1C program manager, Dawson will lead a 250-member team supporting 234 U.S. Navy and Marine Corps active and reserve aircraft hailing from 10 different platforms, with a total budget authority across the future years defense plan of \$4 billion.

PMA-207 supports the acquisition and sustainment of Navy and Marine Corps aircraft, cradle to grave. Platforms under his command include: C-12 Huron, F-5 Tiger II, F-16 Fighting Falcon, C-26 Metroliner, UC-35 Citation, C-20 Gulfstream, C-9 Skytrain, C-37 Transport, C-40 Clipper and the K/C-130 Hercules/Super Hercules and Contracted Air Services.

Enlisting in the Coast Guard Reserve in March 1977, Dawson served 10 years as a boat coxswain and boarding officer. He remained vigilant to his education by taking classes at night and graduating in 1987 Magna Cum Laude from Spring Garden College in Philadelphia, with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering and received a direct commission as an officer in the Coast Guard Reserve. By 2004, Dawson completed a Masters in Management from Salve Regina University, Newport, Rhode Island; a Masters in Homeland Security/Crisis Management from American Military University and graduated from Senior Executive Management Development Program and the Naval War College Command and Staff College.

Upon his commissioning, Dawson served as the operations duty officer at Group Air Station Cape May, New Jersey. In 1984, he



Douglas Dawson relieves Navy Capt. Michelle Guidry by taking charge of Tactical Airlift, Adversary and Support Aircraft Program (PMA-207) in a April 17 change of command ceremony at Naval Air Station Patuxent River, Md. (U.S. Navy photo)

went on to serve as alternate assistant chief of inspections, command duty officer (CDO), and marine inspector assigned to the Marine Safety Office in Philadelphia, overseeing operations at the nation's second largest oil/chemical port. In 2003, he was activated in support of Iraqi Freedom/Neptune Shield and in 2009 he served as commanding officer of U.S. Coast Guard Reserve Unit at U.S. Southern Command where he led 23 personnel in support of various directorates by providing expertise in Maritime Law Enforcement, Search & Rescue (SAR), Command & Control, and response to natural disasters.

Dawson has risen to the rank of captain and currently serves as deputy senior reserve officer Coast Guard Atlantic area; the second most senior reserve officer for all Coast Guard operations from the Rocky Mountains to the Arabian Gulf.

"Dawson's been positive and effective in both his civilian and his Reserve careers," said Rear Adm. C.J. Jaynes, Program Executive Officer for Air Anti-Submarine Warfare, Assault and Special Mission Programs.

The Coast Guard introduced Dawson to the idea of speed mentoring, a program designed to establish mentor/mentee relationships. "Mentoring reservists comes naturally to me because I understand some of their challenges," Dawson said. "I encourage young people to join the Coast Guard Reserve. Service will broaden your horizons, and with jobs in homeland security, port security and search and rescue, having Coast Guard Reserve experience is very relevant in today's workforce."



## A Light on Yesteryear

CGC *Argo* on patrol displaying her World War II armament and haze gray paint scheme.

U.S. Coast Guard Photo



### Lieutenant Charles Eliot Winslow, Kapitanleutnant Johann-Heinrich Fehler and the Surrender of Top Secret Sub *U-234*

Story by William H. Thiesen, Ph.D., Atlantic Area Historian

**Note:** Considered a fine leader and ship captain, Charles Eliot Winslow commanded Cutter *Argo* for the duration of the war. And, near the conflict's conclusion, he played a leading role in the final dramatic chapter in the naval war of the Atlantic. This is the second part of Lt. Winslow's story.

This is the tale of two combat captains. They shared a love for the sea, the ability to command a crew under extreme conditions, and a loyalty to their nation and its wartime cause. But, at the same time, they fought on opposing sides of the Second World War.

Described as a "lanky, hawk-faced man," Charles Eliot Winslow was born in 1909 and grew up in the Boston area. By 1940, he had become a successful paint salesman and was engaged to be married. Winslow had second thoughts about his fiancé, but instead of calling off the wedding, he chose to join the U.S. Navy. So, in 1941, at the ripe age of thirty-one, Winslow found himself called to active duty with the enlisted rating of

seaman second-class. In his first assignment, he served out of Boston on board USS *Puffin*, a Maine fishing boat converted for minesweeping duties. In November 1941, just before the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, he decided to apply for an officer's commission in the United States Coast Guard Reserve. Winslow passed the competitive examination and, by December, he accepted a commission in the Coast Guard.

Winslow rose through the ranks quickly. During 1942, he served as executive officer on board the Coast Guard weather ship *Menemsha*, and then received an appointment to the navy's anti-submarine warfare school in Miami, Florida. Following graduation, the Coast Guard promoted Winslow to



lieutenant junior grade and assigned him to the *Argo*, a 165-foot Coast Guard cutter originally built for offshore Prohibition enforcement.

Johann Heinrich Fehler followed a different career journey than his American counterpart. A handsome, blond, clean-cut man, Fehler was born in 1910 and, as a boy growing up near Berlin, he longed to go to sea. After completing high school, he signed on with a German sailing vessel in the Baltic Sea and, after two years at sea, he began serving on a German ocean-going freighter. He next entered the German merchant marine academy and earned a mate's certificate. In 1933, he joined Adolph Hitler's National Socialist Party, which was recruiting new members throughout Germany. He would remain faithful to the Nazi Party for the rest of his military career.

Fehler found within himself a natural, almost instinctive predisposition for command at sea. In 1936, he joined the German navy as an officer cadet. He completed his training and climbed the officer ranks on board German naval vessels, including the notorious commerce raider *Atlantis*. Configured to look like a merchantman, this auxiliary cruiser sank twenty-two Allied and neutral merchant vessels early in World War II, before the Royal Navy cruiser HMS *Devonshire* discovered the disguised raider and sank her. The British set *Atlantis'* crew adrift in lifeboats, enabling nearby German submarines to rescue the crew and return them to Germany. It was after this rescue that Fehler altered the course of his naval career from serving on surface warships, to joining the submarine corps and training to become a U-boat captain.

In the later years of the war, Fehler's fate would be tied to the German submarine *U-234*. One of Germany's oversized Type X-B subs, this 1,650-ton U-boat was designed to lay mines rather than attack enemy shipping. To allow frontline German attack submarines to remain at sea longer, the German navy decided to convert these minelaying subs into "milchkuhs (milk cows)" or submarine fuel tankers. His assignment to an undersea tanker proved disappointing to Fehler, who wanted to join the fight and command one of the attack subs. But Fehler stayed with *U-234* because requesting another position would have postponed his deployment or garnered him a shore assignment.

On the East Coast, the U.S. Navy assigned Cutter *Argo* and her sisterships to patrol and convoy duties. The cutter carried a crew of seventy-five men and supported radar and sonar equipment; an armament of three-inch and twenty-millimeter guns; and depth charges and other anti-submarine weapons. As escorts, *Argo* and her sisterships were typically assigned to a convoy, tracked underwater contacts and attacked anything that resembled the sonar signature of a submarine.

Beginning in February 1943, Winslow served as senior watch officer and navigation officer on board *Argo*, but he rose rapidly through the ship's officer ranks. In April, the Coast Guard promoted him to executive officer while he served concurrently as gunnery officer. After only two months as the cutter's XO, the Coast Guard promoted him to commanding officer of *Argo*. In June 1944, the senior member of a navy inspection team reported, "The [*Argo's*] commanding officer is an able and competent officer, forceful, decisive, military in conduct and bearing, maintaining discipline with a firm yet tactful hand . . ." Recognizing Winslow's leadership qualities and excellent seamanship, the service retained him as *Argo's* CO for the rest of the war.

In December 1944, the German high command summoned Johann Fehler to Berlin for meetings where he learned his U-boat would not undertake the usual milchkuh refueling mission. Instead, *U-234* would serve as an undersea freighter



Ultimately, *U-234* was used for target practice by the U.S. Navy. On 20 November 1947, USS *Greenfish* shot a torpedo at her as she lay on the surface, approximately 40 miles off Cape Cod.

U.S. Navy Photo

#### OPPOSITE PAGE

LEFT: LT. Charles Winslow. CENTER: Rare color photo of newly surrendered *U-805*, 16 May 1945. RIGHT: Kapitänleutnant Johann-Heinrich Fehler.

to ship important war material to Japan. The German high command had sent U-boats to Japan before and three out of four submarine freighters had been lost attempting the passage. However, toward the end of the war there was no alternative for shipping cargoes to Germany's last remaining ally.

Shipping space was limited in even the largest U-boats. To maximize *U-234's* capacity, every conceivable watertight compartment on board was allocated to critical war material. The 300 tons of cargo included many of Germany's latest armaments and military technology, such as new radar; anti-tank and armor weapons; and the latest explosives and ammunition. Military aviation materials included documents and technical drawings for several fighter aircraft; high-performance aircraft engines; and three disassembled Messerschmitt fighter aircraft (ME 262, ME 163 and ME 309). *U-234* also carried raw materials rarely found in Japan, such as lead (74 tons), Mercury (26 tons), optical glass (7 tons) and uranium oxide ore (1,200 pounds). By 1945, communication between Germany and Japan had become problematic, so *U-234* also carried one ton of mail and correspondence for German military, diplomatic and civilian personnel located in Japan.



Using the schnorkel mast, shown here next to the conning tower, U-boats could run their diesel engines while submerged by sucking air through an intake at the top of the mast while blowing diesel fumes out of the schnorkel's exhaust manifold.

U.S. Navy Photo

Not only did Fehler have to ship important cargo, his orders also required him to ferry critical military personnel to Japan. His twelve passengers included two Japanese military officers, an air force colonel and a navy captain. In addition, there were two civilian employees of the Messerschmitt Aircraft Company and four German naval officers. Lastly, *U-234* carried four German air force officers, including the flamboyant Luftwaffe general Ulrich Kessler.

Fehler departed Germany on April 15, dubious of reaching Japan. He cruised without surfacing for over two weeks using the U-boat's advanced schnorkel system and, by early May, he reached the Atlantic. In the meantime, the Nazi war machine had collapsed, Adolph Hitler killed himself and other Nazi leaders had fled Berlin. So the surrender of German military forces fell to Admiral Karl Doenitz, head of the German submarine fleet. On May 5, 1945, Doenitz broadcast the order for all deployed U-boats to surrender to Allied naval forces.

By the time he received Doenitz's order, Fehler was halfway across the Atlantic. He decided to surrender to the Americans, disposed of all top-secret devices and papers, and began steaming westward. Meantime, the two Japanese officers on board chose to commit suicide to avoid capture and Fehler buried their bodies at sea before *U-234* met the Americans. Four other U-boats would choose to surrender to American forces, including *U-805*, *U-873*, *U-1228* and *U-858*, which surrendered to an armed yacht

patrolling off the Delaware coast. The navy decided to escort the four remaining U-boats to the Portsmouth Navy Yard, near Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

As it had played a major role in capturing the first German vessel of the war (the German arctic trawler *Buskoe*), the U.S. Coast Guard played an important role in taking over these last enemy naval vessels of World War II. The navy selected six patrol vessels as its "surrender unit," including the three 165-foot Coast Guard cutters *Dione*, *Nemesis* and *Argo*; and the navy designated Winslow and *Argo* as the unit's leader.

Within ten days of Doenitz's surrender order, *Argo* began a busy routine of ferrying surrendering U-boats to Portsmouth from a pre-arranged offshore rendezvous point. For the first U-boat, Winslow kept *Argo* on station at the appointed location despite heavy seas and sixty-five mile per hour winds. On May 16, *U-805* appeared with her navy escort and *Argo* took on board her officers and transferred armed personnel to the U-boat to oversee the German enlisted crew operating the sub. A strong impression left on Commander Alexander Moffat, the senior U.S. Navy representative on board *Argo*, was the youth and naiveté of *U-805*'s enlisted crew. Most of them were little more than boys and their officers had denied them any information about the war and the enemy they were fighting.

After delivering *U-805* to the navy base and the crew to an armed guard detail, *Argo* returned to sea and repeated the process twice over the next two days with *U-873* and *U-1228*. Some of the U-boat officers, such as *U-873*'s Kapitänleutnant Fritz Steinhoff, proved to be fervent Nazis. Steinhoff's only response to questions was "I am a Nazi. I will always be a Nazi." Within days of his surrender, he committed suicide in his jail cell.

On May 19, *Argo* rendezvoused with *U-234* and her escort, USS *Sutton*; and Fehler, his officers and his passengers, were ferried over to the cutter from the *Sutton*. According to Commander Moffat, Fehler climbed over the rail, cheerfully introduced himself and extended his hand in greeting, but Moffat did not return Fehler's proffer of a handshake. Denied a warm greeting by the American, Fehler went on to remark: "Come now, commander, let's not do this the hard way. Who knows but that one of these days you'll be surrendering to me? In a few years, you will see Germany reborn. In the meantime, I shall have a welcome rest at one of your prisoner of war camps with better food, I am sure, than I have had for months. Then I'll be repatriated ready to work for a new economic empire."

Surprised by his less than warm reception by the Americans, Fehler proceeded below decks with his officers and passengers. The prisoners were ordered to sit still with their arms folded, which prompted Fehler to complain bitterly to the American interpreter about their treatment. After learning about Fehler's behavior, Winslow went below and ordered the guards to "shoot any prisoner who as much as scratches his head without permission." Later, the Germans were disembarked with local journalists observing from the dock. Luftwaffe General Kessler saluted Winslow and politely asked permission to depart the ship, to which Winslow silently pointed the way. Fehler left the cutter protesting to Winslow "Your men treated me like a gangster." Already simmering over Fehler's hubris and loud behavior, Winslow pointed to the gangway and barked, "That's what you are. Get the hell off my ship!"

After they disembarked, an armed guard escorted *U-234*'s personnel to the base prison at the navy yard. Meanwhile, the navy's surrender unit was disbanded and Winslow asked the senior naval officer in charge if there were any further orders for *Argo*. The navy captain responded, "*Argo* has done an excellent job



Winslow, and the navy appreciates it. For the record, I shall thank you in a letter. If there is anything I can do for you at any time, don't fail to contact me."

*U-234's* prisoners were held at Portsmouth for a few days before the navy bussed them to a larger facility in Boston. Most of the enlisted men were dispersed to internment camps on the East Coast, but a few returned to the Portsmouth Navy Yard to assist naval officials in unpacking *U-234's* important cargo. Navy officials deemed Fehler, his passengers and officers to be of high intelligence value and flew them from Boston to Washington, D.C., for further interrogation and processing.

To determine the contents of *U-234's* cargo, the navy drydocked the U-boat and surrounded it with a shroud to shield the sensitive unloading activities. The Navy Department ordered a full inventory of the U-boat's cargo and sent the ME 262 and ME 163 to the Army Air Force's Wright Field, in Ohio, for analysis and testing. Much of the remaining technology, including some of the Messerschmitt aviation material was retained for U.S. Navy research. And the fate of the uranium oxide remains unknown, but the ore was likely shipped to Oak Ridge, Tennessee, for processing.

With *U-234's* surrender, the sub's operational days were over; however, for two more years, the navy analyzed her design and construction. The U-boat was subjected to numerous tests to compare the durability and performance of German U-boats to the latest American submarine technology. By the spring of 1946, extensive dockside inspections and testing at sea had been conducted and, for another year, advanced equipment and sophisticated technology was stripped from the U-boat for testing and analysis on shore. Finally, on November 19, 1947, *U-234* was sunk as a target by the American submarine, USS *Greenfish*. Surprisingly, it took two torpedoes to send the U-boat to the bottom.

Naval Intelligence officials processed Fehler and the other *U-234* officers through Fort Hunt, near George Washington's

Mt. Vernon home, before the men were dispersed to internment camps along the East Coast. The navy sent Fehler to a facility reserved for fervent Nazi officers and, in 1946, he returned home by sea along with other repatriated Germans. While Fehler sank no ships as a submarine commander, his association with *U-234* made him the subject of journalists, writers and researchers and, perhaps, one of the better-known U-boat captains. After returning to Germany, Fehler settled in Hamburg and passed away in 1993 at the age of eighty-two.

After the war, the Coast Guard experienced a dramatic decrease in personnel levels, forcing the service to retire ships such as *Argo*. At first, the service mothballed the cutter at the Coast Guard's training station at Cape May, New Jersey; however, in 1948, the service decommissioned the vessel and sold her in 1955. In 1959, a New York sightseeing business acquired *Argo* and she began a second career as a city tour boat.

After his wartime responsibilities had ended, Eliot Winslow was ready to go home. In a letter to his command, he wrote, "If the *Argo* . . . is scheduled to fight the wintry blasts alone all winter, my answer is 'Get me off.' One winter upside down was enough for me. It took me three weeks [on shore] to regain the full use of my feet!" After retiring from active duty, he settled in Southport, Maine (near the port city of Bath), where he started a business running tugs and local tour boats. For years, Winslow gave summertime tours of the southern Maine coast on board the sightseeing vessel he named for his old cutter, the *Argo*. Winslow lived to see his nineties at his home in Southport.

Winslow and Fehler fought on opposite sides of World War II and took very different paths in their wartime journeys. Both men found a unique role to play in the conflict, one as a German U-boat commander and the other as a Coast Guard cutter captain. Neither officer could have imagined the role they would play in the war, nor how their paths would cross in the closing act of the Battle for the Atlantic. ≈



This image shows *Argo* moored at Portsmouth Navy Yard on 19 May 1945, with *U-234* crewmembers assembled on the fantail and Coast Guard officers and men looking on.

U.S. Navy Photo



## Retiree SITREP

**Editor's Note:** We have added a new and what we hope will be an interesting and informative section called *Retiree SITREP*. A significant portion of our readership counts themselves among the retired ranks and most, if not all, of our readers aspire to follow in their footsteps. It is our intent to provide stories and articles about interesting things our retirees are doing, as well as providing useful formation for those in or approaching retirement. We hope you enjoy this new section. We'd love to hear what other retirees are doing. As always, your feedback is welcome.

# Alums of First-Ever Reserve Officer Candidate Indoctrination Class Gather

Submitted by Capt. John Marks, USCGR (ret.)

Five members of the Coast Guard Reserve Officer Candidate Indoctrination Class #01 gathered in Louisiana April 13, 2014. Retirees photographed here at the home of Capt. Jim Montgomery are (L-R) Cmdr. Larry Jones, Capt. John Marks, Capt. Michael Milkovich and Capt. Montgomery. The fifth ROCI #01 member, Capt. Stevan Little had to depart early for grandparenting duties, and was not present when the picture was taken.

These gentlemen were part of the first ever Reserve Officer Candidate Indoctrination (ROCI #01) class convened at then Reserve Training Center Yorktown, Va., where after an abbreviated OCS course "candidates" who successfully completed the course received their commissions.

Before the ROCI course was created, commissioned Reserve Officers either attended Reserve Officer Basic Indoctrination (ROBI) after receiving their commissions or were direct commissioned without further formal training.

ROCI is now held at the Coast Guard Academy, New London, Conn.

Between the five retirees they had combined service totaling 95 years of active duty and 110 years as drilling reservists.

Jones' service included Port Security (PSU) 301 during Operation Desert Storm, Harbor Defense Command 208, USCG Liaison Officer to Naval Coastal Warfare and Military Liaison Officer Port Au Prince Haiti.

Marks was Commanding Officer of Reserve Unit Station Manasquan Inlet, N.J., and had numerous special assignments, including Special Projects Officer for the 10th Mountain Division 1994 out load to Haiti, Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS), Kosovo, and post



9/11 JCS, J-5 Homeland Security Division.

Milkovich served as Commanding Officer of PSU 309, Port Clinton, Ohio, and Commodore of Naval Coastal Squadron 21, as well as the Department of Defense's Office of Maritime Domain Awareness.

Montgomery served as an instructor at Training Center Yorktown. He worked with U.S. Navy teaching search and rescue planning, oil spill mitigation and boarding officer techniques to the Navies and Coast Guards of 3 Asian countries. Ultimately, he applied for and was accepted into the Coast Guard's Reserve Program Administrator (RPA) Program.

Little commanded PSU 301 home ported on Cape Cod, Mass. He partook in multiple deployments, including Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Maintain Democracy, Haiti, and to Joint Task Force Guantanamo, Cuba.



## USERRA: an Overview

By Sharif Abdrabbo

*Reprinted with permission from The Advocate, March/April 2014, Volume 42, Number 2*

In early August of 1990, Iraq attacked the neighboring country of Kuwait. The United States, along with an international coalition, responded with military force. The result was what is now known as the Persian Gulf War or the First Gulf War.

Because of the U.S.'s military response, the President ordered the call-up of more than 200,000 Reservists and National Guardsmen. By November of 1990, the U.S. Army had activated 235 National Guard and Reserve units, including 24,000 personnel from 44 states and Puerto Rico. More than 285 Naval Reserve units from 39 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico were also ordered to active duty. This was the first time since the Korean War that the country, and its civilian employers, experienced a massive mobilization of the Reserve and National Guard forces.

Because of that call to duty, the need to provide stronger protections for these service men and women in their places of civilian employment became readily apparent. This was not a novel idea however. The genesis of employment and reemployment rights for service members dates back to World War II with the Veterans Reemployment Rights law. In the mid-1980s, the Department of Defense (DOD) and the Department of Labor (DOL) formed an interagency task force to study the VRR law and propose improvements to it. Then President Bush proposed improvements to Congress in February of 1991.<sup>5</sup> But it was not until the end of the 103rd session of Congress that the law now known as the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) was passed. The bill was signed into law by then President Clinton on October 13, 1994.

USERRA is found at 38 U.S.C. § 4301, et seq. According to the statute, part of its purpose is:

*to minimize the disruption to the lives of persons performing service in the uniformed services as well as to their employers, their fellow employees and their communities, by providing for the prompt reemployment of such persons upon their completion of such service; and to prohibit discrimination against persons because of their service in the uniformed services.*

As such, the law is recognized as having two main thrusts of protection for service members:

*protection against discrimination in the workplace due to affiliation with the uniformed services; and*

*prompt reemployment after performing service in the uniformed services.*

Before examining the law, some definitions are first in order. Per the statute, "uniformed services" is defined as:

*the Armed Forces, the Army National Guard and the Air National Guard when engaged in active duty for training, inactive duty training, or full-time National Guard duty, the commissioned corps of the Public Health Service, and any other category of persons designated by the President in time of war or national emergency.*

The "Armed Forces" includes the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and the Coast Guard.

The term "service in the uniformed services" means:

*the performance of duty on a voluntary or involuntary basis in a uniformed service under competent authority and includes active duty, active duty for training, initial active duty for training, inactive duty training, full-time National Guard duty, a period for which a person is absent from a position of employment for the purpose of*

*an examination to determine the fitness of the person to perform any such duty, and a period for which a person is absent from employment for the purpose of performing funeral honors duty.*

It is important to note the breadth of this particular definition because the protections that USERRA provides to service members covers multiple forms of service—not just a Presidential call-up in times of war or national emergency. Indeed, it is a common misconception among employers that unless their employee, who also happens to be a Reservist or National Guard member, is involuntarily called to duty, then the individual is simply an "at-will" employee and has no job protections at all.<sup>12</sup> This is not the case. As an aside, for those not familiar with the service commitments of the Reserve and National Guard, the typical weekend drill period, or the one weekend a month of duty, is referred to in military parlance as inactive duty training (IDT). The two weeks a year of "active duty" required by members of the Reserve and National Guards is commonly known as Active Duty for Training (ADT). As previously explained, both IDT and ADT are encompassed by the definition of "service in the uniformed services." What this means for employers is that the protections afforded by USERRA specifically cover the "one weekend a month" and "two weeks a year" of duty already performed by all active Reservists and National Guards members.

And what exactly are those protections? They are found primarily in 38 U.S.C. § 4311 and 38 U.S.C. § 4312.

First, there is the prohibition on discrimination by an employer against persons who serve in the uniformed services. Per 38 U.S.C. § 4311(a), it is unlawful to, "den[y] initial employment, reemployment, retention in employment, promotion or any benefit of employment by an employer on the basis of membership [in the uniformed services], application for membership, performance of service, application for service or obligation."

A "benefit of employment" is broadly defined and includes, "any advantage, profit, privilege, gain, status, account, or interest (including wages or salary for work performed) that accrues by reason of an employment contract or agreement or an employer policy, plan or practice." Vacation time, awards, bonuses, severance pay and the opportunity to select work hours or vacation, all fall within the definition of "benefit of employment."

Second, there are the reemployment rights mandated by 38 U.S.C. § 4312, et seq. In short, the employer is required to promptly re-employ the employee/service member upon completion of service in the uniformed services, if the employee/service member meets the following five conditions:

1. the employee/service member must have left employment in order to perform service in the uniformed services;
2. the employee/service member must have given the employer prior written or oral notice;
3. the cumulative period of time for which the employee/service member is absent from the employer to perform service in the uniformed services does not exceed five years;
4. the employee/service member must be released from the performance of service in the uniformed services without having received a punitive discharge or an other-than-honorable discharge;
5. the employee/service member must have made a timely application for re-employment with the pre-service employer.

Let us take a closer look at each of these conditions.

First, the employee/service member must have left employment in order to perform service in the uniformed services. Per the statute, “any person whose absence from a position of employment is necessitated by reason of service in the uniformed services shall be entitled to the reemployment rights and benefits and other employment benefits of this chapter . . . .” Second, there is the notice requirement. Per the statute, the notice can be written or oral and can be given by either the employee/service member, or by, “an appropriate officer of the uniformed service in which such service is performed.”

Third, there is the five-year limit on absence from a specific employer in order to perform service in the uniformed services. In true legislative fashion, the five-year limit does not literally mean five years of total time absent from the place of employment since the statute specifically exempts several different types of duty from the five-year limit calculation. For example, the statute excludes periods of “stop-loss” (i.e., where the military service does not permit the normal expiration of periods of enlistment), and virtually all Presidential authorizations for mobilization in times of war or national emergency.

Fourth, the service member must have been released from service in the uniformed services without a punitive or other than honorable discharge. The statute states in part, that a person’s entitlement to the protections of USERRA terminate upon a separation from service with a dishonorable or bad conduct discharge, or separation under other than honorable conditions.

Fifth is the requirement of timely application for re-employment. This requirement is tiered, based on the length of absence from the place of employment. When the employee/service member is absent for less than 31 days, he must notify his employer of his intent to return to their employment, not later than the beginning of the first full regularly scheduled work period on the first full calendar day following the completion of the period of service and the expiration of eight hours after a period allowing for the safe transportation of the person from the place of that service to the person’s residence.

This is typically done by the employee/service member simply reporting to work within the allotted time. For an absence of

more than 30 days but less than 181 days, the employee/service member has 14 days from the time of completion of service in the uniformed services to notify his employer of his intent to return to his or her employment. For an absence of more than 180 days, the employee/service member has 90 days from the date of the completion of service to notify their employer of intent to return to work.

For litigators, USERRA is a powerful tool with which to obtain relief for aggrieved employee/service members. First, USERRA claims are not subject to any state statute of limitations. “No state statute of limitations shall apply to any proceeding under this chapter.” For a period of time, the existence of a federal statute of limitations on a USERRA claim was an open question. After some litigation that affirmatively answered the question, to the detriment of uniformed service members, Congress amended the law. As of October of 2008, USERRA claims are no longer subject to any federal or state statute of limitations. However, the equitable defense of laches still applies. Most importantly, attorneys’ fees and costs are recoverable in a USERRA suit where the claimant prevails.

USERRA is a very robust and powerful law that protects the employment of the courageous men and women of our military. All members of the Reserve and National Guard should educate themselves on the basics of this law. All employers would do well to support our service members by understanding and observing the protections afforded to members of the uniformed services under USERRA.

**About the Author:** *Sharif Abdrabbo spent eight years on active duty with the Coast Guard before becoming a Reservist and an attorney. He currently holds the rank of Commander (O-5), is designated as a Judge Advocate, and has almost 20 years of combined active and reserve military service. He is a solo practitioner with an office in Florence and Cincinnati. You may reach him at sharif@abdrabbolaw.com. Sharif Abdrabbo is a member of the United States Coast Guard Reserve. Use of his military rank does not imply endorsement by the United States Coast Guard or the Department of Homeland Security.*

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## Joint Professional Military Education for Coast Guard Reserve Officers

Submitted by Cmdr. Lisa Van Buskirk, USCGR

In Issue 3, 2012 of Reservist Lt. Cmdr. Natalie Murphy explained the value of Electronic Based Distributed Learning (EBDL) to earn additional Reserve retirement points. I personally have earned over 320 points from CG and non-CG courses. Considering that performing the minimum number of IDT and ADT earns one on average 75 drills, the contribution of my EBDL points to my retirement point total is significant.

More important than mere points is the career opportunities completion of EBDL courses have opened to me. The majority of my EBDL points were earned while living overseas, on the Active Status List (ASL), and not drilling at any unit. Those points were earned primarily by completing DOD Joint Professional Military Education (JPME) Phase I courses, specifically the Air Command and Staff College (ACSC) and Air War College (AWC) distance learning programs. I believe completing these joint courses is why I was selected for O-5 in 2012.

In 2011, when I was initially passed over for O-5, I was

competing against my Reserve peers who had been recently recalled for Deepwater Horizon and had earned awards and legitimately glowing OERs for their effort. Rhetorically I asked myself “How can I compete with that when my OERs say “Not Observed”? Not well was my answer. So, in the interim months between selection panels, while still on the ASL, I continued to complete more of the EBDL courses, which I documented in my Record of Professional Development (CG Form 4082). To maintain a good anniversary year, my SPO added those courses, for which retirement points were awarded to my Direct Access profile. I believe that the promotion board the second go-around saw the effort I was devoting to my professional education despite my non-drilling status, and therefore rewarded me with a promotion. Similarly, the assignment detailer when I was changing status from ASL to the Selected Reserve in summer 2012 rewarded me with a billet (which was otherwise not guaranteed). And just a few months ago, the Commander Assignment Panel rewarded



me with a Commander billet, despite not having an OER from my current billet. Again, I must believe that it is my Air Command and Staff College and Air War College experience that sets me apart from many of my peers.

Adm. Papp's Guidance to Boards and Panels for Promotion Year 2014 stated: "Senior reserve officers... should possess joint interagency expertise through... aggressive pursuit of education opportunities such as ...war and staff colleges." Completion of JPME can be the first step in showing your purple to the assignment officers to earn that coveted joint billet. While I did not earn a joint billet, I did nonetheless earn a billet in the CG's Office of Defense Operations Policy and hope to apply my DOD knowledge to my new job. Not all commanders up for assignment were fortunate enough to earn a billet and many will transfer to the inactive ready reserve.

Unfortunately, the current list that CG-1311 maintains of EBDL courses (found at <http://www.uscg.mil/reserve/retirement.asp>) has eliminated retirement points for many of the previously approved Staff and War Colleges. This is the result of those courses that were listed being obsolete. New versions of courses cannot be added until the Department of Defense finishes their policy review of this topic and Coast Guard policy matches it. The Naval War College (Online or CD-rom) and half of the curriculum of the Marine Corps Command and Staff continue to earn retirement points. In the meantime I remain hopeful that I will eventually

(and retroactively) earn points for my AWC courses that I've completed.

I would also be remiss if I did not mention the Reserve Senior Education and Fellowship Program advanced education opportunities. Each summer an ALCGRSV message is released detailing reserve specific courses that offer a two week introduction to joint education. An e-resume is submitted and a panel selects attendees. The Reserve Component National Security Course is open to senior enlisted (E8 and E9), warrants, and mid-grade officers. <http://rcnsc.dodlive.mil/> The other courses are restricted to senior officers. Each of the Naval War Colleges courses complete a significant portion of the NWC JPME Phase I requirements. So a selection to one of them sets you down the path to JPME already. <https://www.usnwc.edu/Departments--Colleges/Reserve-Liaison/Operational-Support-Reserve-Course.aspx>

I encourage each of you to pursue some of the joint education courses described above. While I sincerely hope that policy for retirement points will catch up, retirement points is not the only reason to complete these education programs. They have clearly benefited me in ways I did not foresee, while procrastinating, in reading about national security policies (which was ultimately more interesting than I anticipated).

**Here are links to the various DOD Staff and War Colleges. Officer rank requirements and timelines for completion vary by program.**

**Air Force Command and Staff College**  
[http://www.au.af.mil/au/acsc/DistanceLearning/distance-learning\\_pg1.asp](http://www.au.af.mil/au/acsc/DistanceLearning/distance-learning_pg1.asp)

**Air War College**  
[http://www.au.af.mil/au/awc/dl\\_main.aspx](http://www.au.af.mil/au/awc/dl_main.aspx)

**Naval War College**  
<https://www.usnwc.edu/Academics/College-of-Distance-Education/Web-Enabled-Program.aspx>

**Marine Corps Command and Staff**  
<https://www.tecom.usmc.mil/cdet/SitePages/csc.aspx>

**Army Command and Staff**  
<http://www.cgsc.edu/dde/sistersvc.asp>

**Army War College**  
<https://dde.carlisle.army.mil/>

## Web-Based Application Available to Review Benefits

Submitted by Cmdr. Jeb Livingood, USCGR

MilConnect is web application maintained by the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) that allows military members to review beneficiary, health care, and other information from the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS). The milConnect site uses a CAC-enabled login at <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/milconnect>.

Using milConnect, military sponsors and eligible beneficiaries can update contact information in DEERS, manage TRICARE enrollments, transfer education benefits, and service members can even pull up their immunization record.

Military members who transferred Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to their dependents can also use milConnect to validate their transfer's status and review how many months of benefits they allocated to each dependent. (Use the "Education" menu and select the "Transfer of Education Benefits [TEB]" link). Members with approved transfers can print out a current "Approval Form" that documents their Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits transfer. Dependents must still submit a Form 22-1990e to the Veterans Administration to start the actual distribution of benefits when they begin college

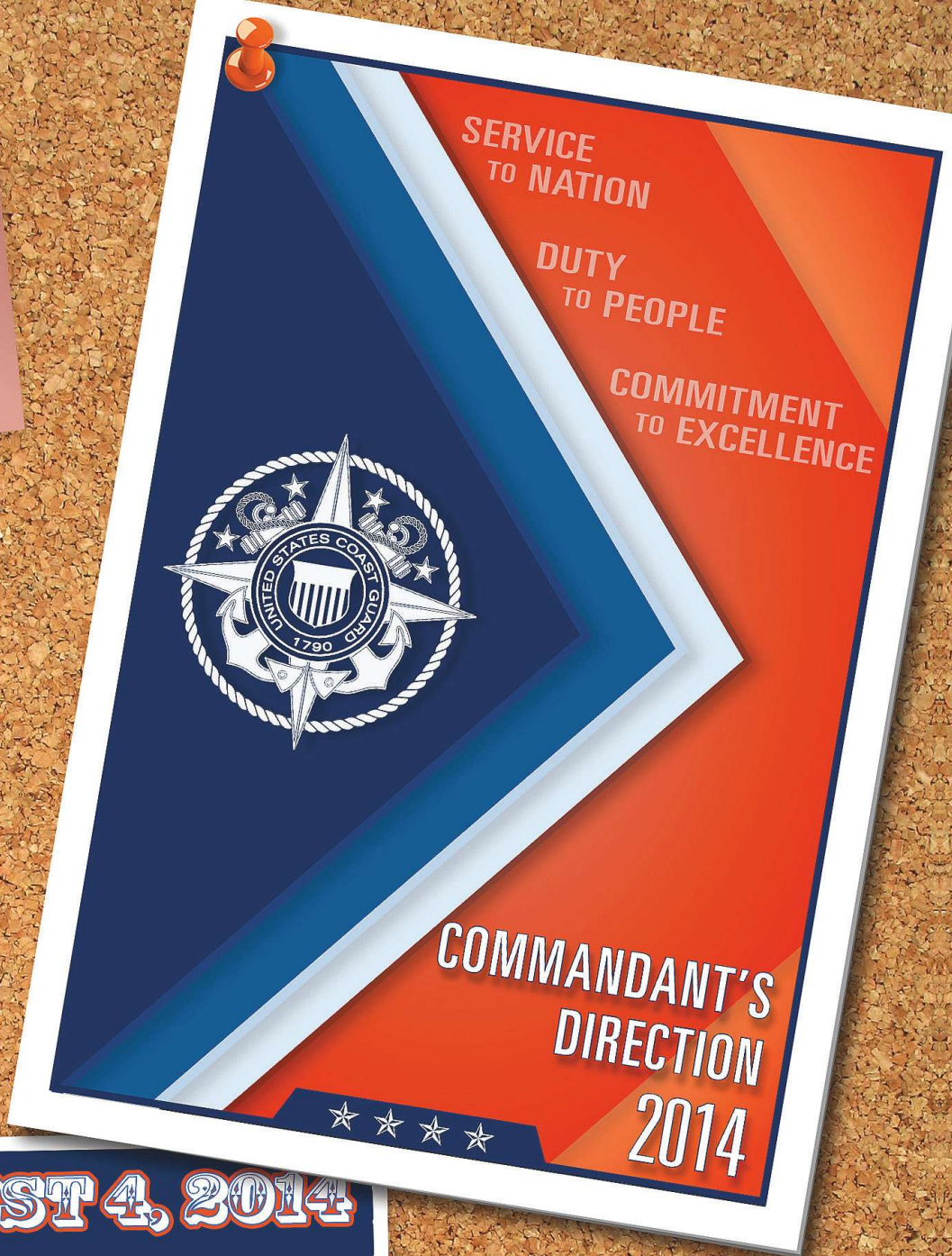
or other training.

With college costs ever on the rise, milConnect is one way for Coasties who transferred Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to gain extra peace of mind and see that transfer confirmed online.

Editor's Note: The Coast Guard Personnel Service Center has verified the above but also recommends all Service Members consider signing up for eBenefits as an option to going directly into milConnect. EBenefits is a new portal created by the Department of Veterans Affairs to manage all VA claims, including beneficiary, health care, Post-9/11 G.I. Bill Transfer of Education Benefits (TEB) etc. Ebenefits is a gateway to after the service member retires or leaves the armed forces. This website will be vital to the service member if they want to reallocate their months of entitlements to their dependants after they leave armed service. The best time to sign up for eBenefits is while on active duty/SELRES, utilizing their Common Access Card (CAC) to obtain a personal login/password. <https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/>. Once they've created a login/password, they can check their status from any electronic media source, military or personal.



# Bulletin Board







**THE COMMANDANT OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20593-0001**

To the entire Coast Guard family,

It was an honor and privilege to relieve Adm. Bob Papp Friday and become your 25th Commandant. I am humbled to continue to serve and I am thankful for the confidence and support entrusted to me by the President, Secretary Johnson, the Senate and you.

Adm. Papp served our nation with distinction for 39 years and his work to steady the service, obtain funding for critical acquisitions and improve the quality of life for all Coast Guardsmen was remarkable. It was truly a memorable occasion to celebrate his contributions and I wish Adm. Papp and Linda fair winds and following seas.

Although the Coast Guard will continue to confront future challenges and face uncertainty, we have clarity and confidence in the course that has been set. To help guide the Coast Guard during my tenure as Commandant, I have developed the Commandant's Direction 2014 document.

I need you to read it and incorporate my guiding principles of Service to Nation, Duty to People, and Commitment to Excellence into your lives as Coast Guardsmen. These are principles that each of you, from our senior leaders to the newest graduates of Cape May, can apply to your own unique role in the Coast Guard.

I've included a brief summary of each of these guiding principles to get you started:

**Service to Nation**

Service to Nation is about placing service above self. It is the common thread that binds us to the nation and to the communities in which we live. Through this service, we provide for the safety, security and stewardship of the nation's waters by preventing dangerous or illegal activities from occurring, responding effectively to events when they happen, and fostering the resilience essential to safeguard America's prosperity and security.

**Duty to People**

Although the Coast Guard relies on cutters, boats, and aircraft to operate in the maritime environment, it is our people who are our most valued asset and deliver truly unique capabilities to the nation. By honoring our duty to people, we are committed to upholding values that advance a professional working environment today and cultivate the workforce of tomorrow.

**Commitment to Excellence**

Excellence is our standard. The American public knows that when we are called into action, we will respond courageously and effectively. To do this, we must strive to achieve the highest standards of readiness, efficiency and proficiency - we must remain Semper Paratus - Always Ready. In all of our endeavors, we will be committed to excellence and will serve the nation with humility, and with the teamwork, on-scene initiative, and bias for action that are part of our enduring legacy.

Thank you for your Service to Nation, Duty to People, and Commitment to Excellence.

Semper Paratus,

Adm. Paul Zukunft



**TO CHANGE YOUR  
MAILING ADDRESS:**

**Selected Reservists:**

Please use Direct Access  
[www.uscg.mil/ppc/ps/](http://www.uscg.mil/ppc/ps/),  
or send your address change to  
your unit Servicing Personnel  
Office (SPO).

**Individual Ready Reservists  
(IRR):**

Please contact the IRR  
Personnel Support Unit via  
email at:  
[ARL-DG-CGPSCIRR@uscg.mil](mailto:ARL-DG-CGPSCIRR@uscg.mil)  
or at:

Commander (rpm-3)  
Personnel Service Center  
U.S. Coast Guard Stop  
72004200 Wilson Blvd  
Ste. 1100 Arlington, Va  
20598-7200

**Retired Reservists:**

Please send e-mail to Personnel  
Service Center (ras) at:  
[ppc-dg-ras@uscg.mil](mailto:ppc-dg-ras@uscg.mil)  
or use Direct Access  
[www.uscg.mil/ppc/ps/](http://www.uscg.mil/ppc/ps/),  
or use self-service at  
[www.uscg.mil/ppc/ras/  
directoryassistance.asp#one](http://www.uscg.mil/ppc/ras/directoryassistance.asp#one)  
or call 1-800-772-8724.





# Bulletin Board (cont.)

## Dining Out aboard the RMS Queen Mary

Navy and Coast Guard Officers assigned to the Coastal Riverine Squadron 11 (CRS-11) attended a Dining Out aboard the RMS Queen Mary in Long Beach, Calif., on May 10, 2014. The Dining In tradition is thought to have been started either in 16th century England in monasteries or as far back as the Roman Legions. The tradition in the United States was carried over, like many of our military traditions, from the British and began as early as the 18th century. The term Dining In is used when members of the unit gather for this event, however, when spouses and guests are invited to participate it is referred to as a Dining Out.

Members of the unit's wardroom pictured here are left to right: Lt. Cmdr. Michael McCarthy, USCGR Lt. Cmdr. Richard Kocher, USCGR Capt. Charles Lund, USNR Commanding Officer CRS-11, Capt. Jauquin Martinez, USNR, Executive Officer CRS-11, Cmdr. Matthew Wadleigh, USCGR, Lt. Cmdr. Turman Z. Barnett, USCGR, Lt. Cmdr. Paul Greene, USCGR and Capt. (Sel) Gamilier Saez, USNR.



## Coast Guard Birthday Celebration in Central Florida

A celebration of the Coast Guard's 224th birthday will be held at 3PM on Saturday, August 2, at the Eisenhower Regional Recreation Center at 3560 Buena Vista Blvd in The Villages (no Villages' ID or gate pass required.) There will be a catered buffet, live music by La Croix, door prizes and a 50-50 raffle. Tickets are \$22.50 in advance. Proceeds from the event will be donated to "K-9s for Warriors."

Please make checks payable to "John Murphy" and mail to:

John Murphy  
2011 Plumosa Ct.  
The Villages, FL 32162

Payment must be received by July 23. Tickets will be mailed to your return address. For information send email to [USCGbirthday@aol.com](mailto:USCGbirthday@aol.com) or leave a message at 352-391-2517.



## PSU 308, Kiln, MS assists with Operation PROP

On May 17, 2014, members of PSU 308 volunteered to support Operation PROP (People Reaching Outrageous Potential) at Stennis International Airport in Kiln, Miss. Operation PROP is a non-profit organization that shares the joy of flying with Wounded Warriors and people with disabilities as a way to build their confidence. PSU personnel assisted the ground crew by escorting participants on and off the aircraft for a 30-minute flight over the Gulf of Mexico. Also, members of the unit's engineering division assembled basketball goals for the participants while the unit's Food Service Specialists worked the grill for all to enjoy hamburgers and hot dogs. (Photo by SN Stacie Cunningham)

## CG Attends Wounded Warrior Event at White House

On Thursday, 17 Apr 14, the President, along with Vice-President Joe Biden and Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric Shinseki, welcomed injured veterans, their family members, and other Active Duty and Reserve service members to the White House for the seventh annual Wounded Warriors Project Soldiers Ride event. This seventh annual cycling event is organized by the Wounded Warrior Project, which aids wounded service members. The White House said the ride helps raise "awareness of our nation's Wounded Warriors who battle the physical and psychological damages of war."

At the conclusion of the event, Military members were able to meet and shake the hand of the President as interacted with and thanked military members for their service. Pictured from left to right are; Lt. Robert W Bilbo, USCGR, IS3 Jennifer Jordan, USCG, Lt.j.g. Audrey Ested, USCG, Lt. Cmdr. Hans Holkon, USNR and IS2 Karen Henderson, USCG.





# Awards



**Coast Guard  
Commendation Medal**  
MKCM Robert Payne

YN1 Shaun R. Marable  
EM2 Eric K. Whitmoyer  
ME2 Jonathan Silva

YN1 Sharon Williams  
ME2 Leonardo Figuereo  
ME2 Jonathan Zocchia  
MK2 Michael Slack  
MST2 Jocelyn Esquivel  
OS2 Sean Wallace  
BM3 Alexandra Costescu



**Military Outstanding  
Volunteer Service  
Medal**  
ME1 Eric T. Moss



**Coast Guard  
Achievement Medal**  
Lt. Michelle D. Curry  
Lt. John W. Garr  
Lt. Jennifer T. Loth  
Lt. Jessica A. Rangel  
MLES4 Mark R. Anning  
PERS3 Scott Thompson  
CWO3 Scott Thompson  
BMC Gary Baker  
BMC Brian Bird  
MSTC Jeffrey E. Chilson



**Commandant's Letter  
of Commendation**  
Lt. Thomas Baker  
Lt. Wes Burns  
Lt. Oscar A. Carbajal  
Ens. Douglas McNealy  
F&S2 Mildred Figuereo  
MKC Michael Durrett  
BM1 Gabriel M. Comelius  
ET1 Rhett H. Sampson  
MST1 Mary Strauss  
SKI Lisbeth Menke



**Coast Guard Reserve  
Good Conduct Medal**  
SK1 Heather Ramirez  
YN1 Joseph Hutsell  
BM2 Houston Riley

**Auxiliary Letter of  
Commendation**  
Mr. Bruce A. White

**Marine Safety Insignia**  
MST1 Barrett McCaffrey



## PSU 311 Earns Reserve Family Readiness Award

Vice Adm. Norbert Ryan, Jr., President of Military Officers Association of America joined the Office of the Secretary of Defense Reserve Affairs and Chiefs of the National Guard and Reserves in honoring seven outstanding military family readiness units including Port Security Unit 311 of San Pedro, Calif., during the 2013 Department of Defense (DoD) Reserve Family Readiness Awards program on Friday, Feb. 28, 2014 in the Hall of Heroes at the Pentagon in Arlington, Va.

The DoD Reserve Family Readiness Awards Program was established in 2000 to recognize the top unit in each of the Reserve components.

Performing the duties of Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, Reserve Affairs, Mr. John Hastings addressed a standing-room-only audience during the program. "I believe Teddy Roosevelt said something to

the effect that, you're supporting those who answer the trumpet's call, the trumpet's call is that inspiring sound that causes men and women to leave a life of ease and put aside some of the luxuries and go into danger for the support and defense of this country, and in some cases sacrificing their lives," Hastings continued. "There is no other profession that demands this much of the family... and we truly honor your successes."

Shown here during the award presentation are (L-R) Mr. Hastings, Capt. Stephen Nye, Acting, Director of the Coast Guard Reserve, Cmdr. John Caraballo, PSU 311 Commanding Officer, Mrs. Vicki Rodrigue, PSU 311 Ombudsman, Mrs. Tami Carballo, 13th District Reserve Command Master Chief Russell Lockey, Cmdr. Rob Cooper, CG Yellow Ribbon Program Manager, and Vice Adm. Ryan, USN (ret.).

# Retirements



## Long Serving 1st District Reservist Goes Ashore

Cmdr. Jason Smith, Chief of Prevention, Coast Guard Sector Boston reads MST1 William McNamara's (USCGR) retirement orders during a ceremony held on April 12, 2014. MST1 McNamara retired with 30 years in the Coast Guard Reserve: all in the Boston area. His tours included Marine Safety Office Boston and Sector Boston. In addition to receiving his official retirement certificate, MST1 McNamara was awarded the Coast Guard Achievement Medal and the Armed Forces Reserve Medal with Gold Hour Glass.

## Senior Public Affairs Reservist Recognized for Meritorious Service

Senior Chief Petty Officer (ret.) Barbara Voulgaris was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal Mar. 27, 2014, by Rear Adm. Steven Poulin, for her work in reorganizing the reserve Public Affairs force. She increased Reserve PA billet strength by twenty percent, and organized the force into deployable teams. Voulgaris retired in December 2013 after more than 30 years of Coast Guard service.



## CWO McCormack completes 27 year career

CW03 Marianne McCormack, Special Missions Training Center – Deployment Training Detachment, enjoying her luau themed retirement after 27 years of dedicated service to the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve. Joining CW03 McCormack are Ens. Jessica Snyder (rear), SMTC-DTD; and Lt. Jasmine Barnard (Left), YNCM Melissa Sharer (center), Cmdr. Jennifer Grezelak-Ledoux (right) from DOL 31 Reserve Force Readiness. The retirement ceremony was held at the Portside, Base Portsmouth, Va. on May 30, 2014. Photo by DC1 Karl Rebenstorf





## PSU 308 celebrates Master Chief Boatswain Mate's 27 years of service

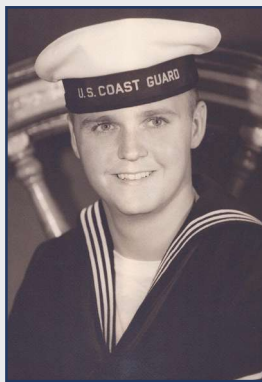
On Saturday, April 12, 2014, shipmates, family, and friends celebrated Master Chief Boatswain Mate (BMCM) Deb Marsh's 27 years of dedicated service to the nation. BMCM Marsh entered the Coast Guard on March 23, 1987 when she graduated from recruit training as a member of Charlie 125. Her assignments included CG Station Marblehead, PSU 309, Station St. Clair Shores, Marine Safety Unit Port Arthur, Texas, PSU 308, and the PSU Training Detachment in Camp Perry, Ohio, where she was a primary trainer for the battle roster PSU tactical coxswains.

In 1990, she deployed to the Persian Gulf for Operation Desert Storm and served as the first female tactical coxswain in Manama, Bahrain. Throughout her career BMCM Marsh also deployed to Port-au-Prince as a part of Operation Uphold Democracy; the Deepwater Horizon Response; Haiti; Pohang, South Korea; Alexandria, Egypt; Ash Shuaiba, Kuwait and New York City. Additionally, in 2005 BMCM Marsh was recalled to participate in the nation's worst natural disaster, Hurricane Katrina.

Marsh's last assignment was with PSU 308 where she has served since October of 2012. Commanding Officer Ronzelle Green, of PSU 308, presented BMCM Marsh her retirement certificate. BMCM Tim Jasina was the Master of Ceremonies and Captain Daniel J. Zedan (ret.), was the guest speaker for the ceremony. Master Chief Marsh's parting words to the crew were, "Do the right thing, at the right time, for the right reasons and you will always be successful."

Well said, Master Chief. Fair winds.

# Taps



**Cmdr. Edward Anthony Moritz**, 67, USCGR, died at home after a long illness of complications from cholangiocarcinoma, the result of exposure to Agent Orange during his 2-year service in Viet Nam. Born in Philadelphia, Pa., to the late Milton E. Moritz and Kathleen Maud Lyndon, of London, England, he was educated in Philadelphia and West Hartford, Conn. An Eagle Scout at the age of 12, he was active in the Boy Scouts until the time of his death. He attended Stonehill College in North Easton, Mass., and graduated from Regents College in

Albany, N.Y. Enlisting in the Coast Guard in 1967, he was commissioned an ensign in 1971. In addition to serving on 11 ships, he served two years in Vietnam where he received two combat action ribbons and four campaign ribbons. He served as a White House military aide to Presidents Nixon and Ford. He holds multiple commendation and achievement medals and was decorated with the Defense Meritorious Service medal while serving as Coast Guard liaison to the Secretary of Defense.

A Reserve Program Administrator, he twice served as Director of Reserve in Miami, Fla. and Honolulu, Hawaii, where he met his wife of 33 years Maureen Morgan. Upon retiring from the Coast Guard in 1993, he attended law school at Touro College on Long Island, N.Y. He was admitted to the Bars of the States of New York and Connecticut and the Supreme Court of the United States.

A heraldist by avocation, he served as a Director of both the College of Arms Foundation and the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society. A past master of Masons in Huntington, N.Y., he was appointed Assistant Grand Lecturer by the Grand Master of Masons in New York. A Knight Grand Cross of the Military Order of the Collar of St. Agatha of Paterno, he was created Baron St. Cyprien by the Royal House of Aragon in 1991 and is succeeded as such by his heir James Kaloi. He is survived by his widow, two stepchildren, James Kaloi and Puamana Koerlin, five grandchildren and his godmother, Jeanne Williams of North Wildwood, N.J.

**Lt. Cmdr. Elmo Gaskill, Jr.**, 75, USCGR, passed away on April 11, 2014. Born January 28, 1939, he was the son of Elmo Gaskill, Sr. and Maude Smith Gaskill of Atlantic, North Carolina. He attended Atlantic High School, Chowan College and East Carolina College, where he graduated with a degree in Social Studies and Physical Education and a Masters Degree in Education. He taught high school for several years before becoming Principal in Craven County and then in Robeson County. He returned to Carteret County in 1976 and served as Principal of Atlantic Elementary School until he retired in 1991.



He was married to Wanda Morris Gaskill (48 years) and was the proud father of Janie Gaskill Mason, and husband Jonathan, and son James Ervin Gaskill, Sr. A devoted "Pop Pop", he was grandfather to Katlyn Maria Small, James Ervin Gaskill, Jr., Morgan Elizabeth Gaskill and John Cooper Mason.

Elmo was a Deacon in the Atlantic Missionary Baptist Church, a member of the Carteret Historical Society, Core Sound Water Fowl Museum, American Legion and Hunting Quarters Primitive Baptist Church.

# Parting Shots



Coast Guard Rear Adm. Steven H. Ratti inspects an honor platoon from the Fifth Coast Guard District during the District's change of command ceremony, Wednesday, April 30, 2014, in Portsmouth, Va. Rear Adm. Stephen P. Metruck relieved Ratti of the command, which is responsible for the full range of Coast Guard missions from New Jersey through North Carolina.

Photo by PA1 John D. Miller



Incoming Reserve Force Master Chief Eric Johnson, left, shakes hands with outgoing Reserve Force Master Chief Mark Allen during a ceremony at Station Washington, D.C., May 9, 2014, as Adm. Bob Papp and MCPO-CG Michael Leavitt look on.

Photo by Annie B. Elis



Adm. Paul F. Zukunft is congratulated by outgoing Commandant of the Coast Guard Adm. Bob Papp during a change of command ceremony at the Douglas A. Munro U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters in Washington, D.C., May 30, 2014. Zukunft assumed command as the 25th Commandant of the United States Coast Guard.

Photo by PA2 Patrick Kelley.

Master Chief Petty Officer Steven W. Cantrell (right) assumes the duties of the master chief petty officer of the Coast Guard during a change-of-watch ceremony Thursday, May 21, 2014 at Coast Guard Training Center Cape May, N.J. During the ceremony, overseen by Coast Guard Commandant Adm. Robert J. Papp Jr., Cantrell relieved Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard Michael P. Leavitt to become the 12th MCPOCG.

Photo by PA2 Patrick Kelley





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